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Paper Reports on Signing of CIS Economic Union Treaty

PM2809165593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by Pavel Shinkarenko: "Treaty on Economic Union Signed"]

[Text] "There are some new faces in the hall," Viktor Chernomyrdin noted with satisfaction, opening the session of the Council of CIS Countries' Heads of State and Government yesterday morning. He was referring to the prime ministers of Azerbaijan and Georgia, participating in this conference for the first time.

But the main events lay ahead. After a heated debate and further consultations the Ukrainian Government delegation agreed to a compromise and withdrew some of its objections concerning the text of the treaty on instituting an economic union, while other amendments were adopted by the participants of the "premiers summit." Ukraine and Turkmenistan will be associate members of the commonwealth.

At a ceremony in the Kremlin Acting President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev signed the Almaty Declaration, the CIS Charter, and the Treaty on Collective Security, thus confirming his country's equal membership of the Commonwealth.

But the main event was the signing by the heads of state of the Treaty on Instituting an Economic Union—it took place at the end of the afternoon in the conference hall of Moscow's "President's Hotel." Will it be a working union? Answering this question, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin noted: "I hope so. Economic union removes many obstacles, creating totally new foundations for our relations with our CIS partners." The Russian Government head went on to say that, following the signing of the document, it will take some time to set the machinery of implementation in motion. A statute on the new union has to be drawn up and approved, and a number of unilateral agreements developing the multilateral accords has to be signed. "But the main job has been done—the very foundation of CIS countries' economic relations has been laid," he stressed.

There is another important detail. The heads of the CIS states told the Russian president of their unanimous solidarity and support for the economic measures Boris Yeltsin has taken to overcome the constitutional crisis, protect democracy, and maintain civil peace in the country. The continuation of economic and political reforms in Russia, of which Boris Yeltsin is guarantor at the present stage, is seen as a very important condition of peaceful development throughout the CIS, they stressed.

Documentary on Road 'From Strife to Accord'

LD2809190493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1520 GMT on 28 September carries a program titled "The CIS: From Strife to Accord." This 25-minute program presented by Vitaliy Ilyashenko opens outside the President's Hotel in Moscow where heads of CIS states held a summit meeting 24 September and signed an agreement on economic union. The program outlines the factors that have led CIS republics to enter this agreement.

Russian President Yeltsin says at the summit meeting that "the Commonwealth has a realistic prospect of becoming one of the most powerful integrated unions in the world". The program then shows the major Lisichansk and Kremenchug oil refineries in Ukraine, working at only 10-15 percent of their capacity because of the lack of oil. The acting mayor of Donetsk in Ukraine, V. Rybak, says "we will not survive in isolation" and calls for economic integration.

Switching to the Republic of Belarus, the program focuses on the fuel shortage which has held up harvesting this year, then shows streets and shops in Moldova over general commentary about economic hardship before returning to Ukraine, this time to the noisy parliament, to demonstrate the problems leaders face getting support for the idea of economic union. The announcer quotes Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk's comment that Ukraine is allergic to the word union. Video shows loud squabbling among deputies at Ukraine's parliament on the eve of the summit meeting, and then the angry nationalist rallies held during the eighth congress of people's deputies in Ukraine. The announcer points out that there are also many in favor of union. Nikolay Azarov, chairman of Ukraine's Labor Party, says "there are no reasons for a break with Russia" and that some of the nationalists in power should be removed.

President Kravchuk is then interviewed. "I am convinced that the most vehement opponents of economic union will see that it is good for us," he said.

Some Russians are also reluctant to return to the burden of tighter union with the republics, the announcer emphasizes, quoting their point that last year alone, Russia gave the CIS republics $18 billion in the form of cheap raw materials and cheap or free credit.

The program moves to a timber factory in Kazakhstan which is not getting the required supplies from Siberia. Its director says they have to get the timber from a third country now after obtaining convertible currency through an exchange of goods. Citizens of Kazakhstan then give their views in favor of union. But many Kazakh deputies are against currency union with Russia, the announcer says.

The camera moves to Moldova, which is suffering an economic crisis, despite the bumper harvests this year. The republic practically faced economic blockade after its rejection of the Almaty agreement on union in August. The republic's Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli says "we should be participants in this economic community" and the Moldovan parliament is coming round to the idea of economic union, the announcer says.

The program then moves to a report from Azerbaijan's parliament as it was making the decision to join the CIS. An interview is shown with Deputy Prime Minister Samed Sadykhov, who stresses that Azerbaijan's sovereignty is not infringed upon by the new agreement and that "a process of integration with Russia has been taking shape over decades."

"The idea of a common CIS market, initiated by Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, is now reality," says the announcer, concluding the program.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Sep

LD2809133393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0618 GMT 28 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—All the newspapers focus attention today on the acute political situation in Russia.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, publication of the Russian Defence Ministry, frontpages an article entitled "What Russia needs today is stability, tranquility and order." According to the newspaper, during the past several days "the presidential structures have been acting in the offensive manner, which has already become habitual." At the same time, the article continued, "the time for spectacular actions is over." Commenting on the report that the command of some military districts has allegedly expressed support for the Supreme Soviet (parliament), KRASNAYA ZVEZDA quotes reports from the press centres of the Urals and Volga military districts, which say that "the army is not interfering in the political life of the country" and that the command "will not permit the military to be drawn into political games."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a selection of statements of a number of Russian politicians, who favour simultaneous elections of the federal representative and executive authorities.

Most of the articles published by PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA are critical of President Yeltsin and the Russian government. The latter gave a whole page to the publication of resolutions of the councils of people's deputies on various levels, which express support for the Russian parliament.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes reports by its correspondents dealing with the creation of the economic alliance of the CIS member states. "One can state with confidence today that economy has acquired priority importance in the CIS states, and its dependence on politics has become minimal," the newspaper points out. Touching upon the proolem of the formation of the CIS collective peace-keeping force, the newspaper writes that after the creation of the economic alliance there exist all the economic and legal conditions, needed for it.

PRAVDA also carries an article dealing with the creation of the economic aliance, which stresses that "this is the most important event in the short and hectic history of the CIS." PRAVDA believes, however, that the former USSR republics are showing interest in forming an alliance with Russia out of purely selfish considerations.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reminds its readers of the fact that thirty years ago the Soviet Union began to import grain. According to the newspaper, Russia has become one of the world's largest grain importers.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with pilot-cosmonaut Vladimir Dzhanibekov, twice hero of the Soviet Union.

29 Sep Press Review

LD2909091393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 29 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—The situation around the Russian parliament building and the atmosphere in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict are leading topics in today's Moscow- based press.

"Boris Yeltsin said 'no' and the encriclement got locked" is the headline under which KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) reports the president's reaction to statements by those political parties and movements which declared for simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections.

The newspaper writes that the president does not even think about compromises. Moreover, judging by everything, the political confrontation "no longer worries him as seriously as it did several days ago", which is evidenced by the great attention which he gave to "lawmaking and economic problems" this week, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA notes.

Meanwhile the position of those who "have barricaded themselves inside the parliament building" becomes critical. The ring of blockade is tightening, the newspaper points out.

Under the headline "The 'White House is lighting candles", KOMSOMOLSAKAYA PRAVDA carries a report by its correspondent A. Gamov on the atmosphere inside the parliament building. The report has it that due to the cut-off of electric power supply, the corridors of power plunge into darkness at twilight.

Coming across Ruslan Khasbulatov, the correspondent asked him how long he intended to hold defences. "Until complete and final triumph over the putschists", Khasbulatov answered.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, explaining why the 'zero' option—simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections—is unacceptable to Boris Yeltsin, points out that "the presidential plan is simple"—to get the oppositional parliament out of the way, to bring a loyal state

duma to legislative power (the suggested structure of a new parliament presupposes that it will be built up gradually), and within six months to try with a strong hand to organise the state and economic structure of the Russian Federation".

PRAVDA, under the headline "Be careful, the doors are closing. A police state is the next stop", frontpages a series of items about the situation around the parliament building. The newsppaer gives a list of state power bodies of the federation's territorial units which, the newspaper maintains, condemn the actions of the president and support the decisions of the Supreme Soviet.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, reporting the situation in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, notes that "to Georgia, the defeat in Abkhazia has developed into prerequisites for a civil war".

At the same time the newspaper draws attention to the fact that one should not view that as a "hand of Moscow". The head of the Georgian state, Eduard Shevardnadze, "saw (for the umpteenth time) intrigues of 'Russian, Chechen, Abkhazian and other bandits" in the Sukhumi defeat, the newspaper writes.

Commenting on the same subject, newspapers note that although the city of Sukhumi fell, the war is going on. "Georgians and Abkhazians continue to fight for the right to refer to Sukhumi as a Stalingrad of theirs", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA emphasises.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Colonel-General B. Pyankov, commander of a CIS Collective Peacekeeping Force (CPF). "A real threat that extremism would spread throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States" was the reason behind the CIS countries' decision to set up an approximately 25,000-strong CPF and to ensure their arrival in Tajikistan, Pyankov said.

Foreign Ministry 'Bitter' Over Sukhumi Developments

LD2809144093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—"Russia cannot accept dramatic developments around Sukhumi, it feels bitter about them," head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

The Abkhazian violation of cease-fire has resulted in another bloodshed, said the official. "The Abkhazian leadership did not listen to Russian insistent demands to stop the offensive and immediately begin the discussion of measures to resume cease-fire. The stake on force has no future. Power boomerang always returns," he stressed.

On the other hand, "anti-Russian character of recent pronouncements of the Georgian leadership, including state head Eduard Shevardnadze, has provoked Russian bewilderment and put us on our guard". Russia has been a mediator for many months, it worked to stop combat operations in the conflict zone. That is why, "camouflaged or direct attacks upon Russia are not justified and we reject them. These attacks would hardly help the development of bilateral relations or bring peace to Abkhazia," said Karasin.

"A way out must be found, and it will be if both sides show goodwill," he stressed.

In the words of the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative, co-chairman of the United Commission for Settlement in Abkhazia (Georgia) Zhiguli Shartana was taken prisoner by the Abkhazians and killed under unknown conditions.

Commander Protests Georgian 'Provocation'

PM2809155793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 1

[Vitaliy Denisov report: "Intelligence Service Provided-...Inaccurate Report. Our Command Assesses Georgian Information and Intelligence Service Statement as Provocation"]

[Text] The Georgian Information and Intelligence Service issued an official statement 22 September on the departure of two warships and a Grad rocket launcher-equipped barge from Gudauta for Sukhumi and demanded that the command of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus [GRFT] and the Transcaucasian Border District take resolute action to prevent the bombardment of the Abkhazian capital.

Your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent asked Major General Boris Dyukov, first deputy commander of the GRFT, to comment on this statement 23 September. This is what he said: "I personally received a package from the Information and Intelligence Service. But the documents themselves—and that was what surprised me straightaway—came from the apparatus of the Georgian head of state. However, according to our more precise information, no one prepared these documents there. And indeed Shevardnadze himself knows nothing about them. So we can safely speak of a forgery here. Especially since no ships and surface craft left Gudauta for Sukhumi. The GRFT command regards the incident as a provocation."

The general also considers the seizure of two Russian officers on the morning of 21 September to be a provocation. There is still no information about these men. In this connection Vladimir Zemskiy, the Russian Federation's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, in conjunction with Major General Viktor Zemtsov, commander of the Transcaucasian Border District, and Major General Vasiliy Belchenko, GRFT assistant commander for work with personnel, paid an official visit to Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze. The Russian representatives delivered an addendum to the Russian Foreign Ministry Note and drew the Georgian side's attention to the flagrant instances of banditry and the seizure of Vladimir Rogal and Oleg Beskaravaynyy, officers of the Russian Federation Security Ministry's Border Troops. The question was raised of taking steps for the immediate return of the Russian servicemen and the punishment of the criminals.

Kozyrev Views Capture of Sukhumi, Meets With Zlenko

LD2809142993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] At the session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev called the capture of Sukhumi by Abkhazis "a gross violation of the cease-fire reached in Sochi on July 27." In an interview with an Interfax reporter Monday [27 September] night, he made it clear that the seizure of Sukhumi, in fact, terminated the accord, secured through Russia's direct mediation.

On Russia's reaction to the latest development in Abkhazia Kozyrev said: "I think sanctions against Abkhazia will be lifted only after it comes up with something more constructive than further seizure. However, there is no alternative to a peaceful process on the same basis, through a joint commission, troop withdrawal, etc."

Asked whether Russia should be more energetic in pressing for a formal meeting between Abkhazia's leader Vladislav Ardzinba and Eduard Shevardnadze, Kozyrev replied that such a meeting had been continuously discussed with the Russia side and appropriate agreements have even been drafted. "Both sides should display political will - he explained. - I think heroism is not in capturing a city or trying to withstand its siege (although

at some stage probably this proved unavoidable) but in showing the real will to meet."

Kozyrev reiterated Russia's readiness to further act as a mediator. In his words, the RF [Russian Federation] President's personal envoy Boris Pastukhov will continue such efforts.

According to the Foreign Minister's Spokeswoman Galina Sidorova, the Georgian-Abkhazi conflict came up at Kozyrev's meeting with his Ukrainian opposite number Anatoliy Zlenko in New York on Monday. Both ministers voiced satisfaction with the fact that in keeping with their presidents' agreement, seamen from the Black Sea Fleet have carried out a humanitarian action to evacuate refugees from Abkhazia.

Sidorova told an Interfax correspondent that the agreements reached by Yeltsin and Kravchuk at their Crimean meeting in early September had been discussed at the meeting with Zlenko.

Kozyrev plans to address the UN General Assembly on Tuesday. The keynote of his speech, as Sidorova revealed, will be peace-keeping missions in conflict zones.

According to Interfax information, Kozyrev is to meet with President Clinton on Wednesday.

Meets Butrus-Ghali on Georgian Conflict

LD2909024493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0042 GMT 29 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN, 29 Sep—A meeting between Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister, and Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, was held in New York on Tuesday [28 September]. Their discussion was connected with recent developments in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone and focused on the need for the UN to search for new approaches to peacekeeping operations in order to make them more timely and effective.

Further on Kozyrev's Activities at UN Session

Warns of 'Aggressive Nationalism'

LD2809200993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev invited international observers to monitor parliamentary elections in December. He spoke on Tuesday [28 September] at a session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Kozyrev said that this election would put an end to the totalitarian system in Russia forever. It will be replaced by a new system of government that would be elected by the people and would be responsible solely for the people.

Touching on the regional conflicts, he stressed that now aggressive nationalism is the main threat and no one is insured against it, even countries that are traditionally safe.

Today, this infection is no less dangerous to the world than yesterday was with the threat of nuclear war, said the Russian foreign minister.

He pointed out that Russia made a peacekeeping policy (?in) practice, protection of human rights, especially those of national minorities, the priority of its foreign policy, and above all, on the territory of the former USSR.

Views 'Hot Spots'

LD2809210293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2032 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS—All quotation marks as received]

[Text] United Nations September 28 TASS—Speaking at the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev dwelled on the situation in hot spots of our planet. He said in particular:

"The successful operation in Cambodia was one of the largest in the history of this organization. Life is coming back to normal in the country long torn by a civil war. We are ready, together with other members of the international community, to help the people of Cambodia to revive their country.

We have witnessed a political and psychological breakthrough towards the solution of the key problem of the Middle East settlement which is the problem of Palestine. We pay tribute to the courageous leaders of Israel and the PLO who have taken the first and most difficult step towards mutual recognition and reconciliation. We are ready to participate in an international conference on the economic development of self-governed Palestinian territories. Russia, as a co-sponsor of the conference on the Middle East, will spare no effort to advance the peace process in all other directions."

However, the Russian foreign minister stressed, "The key to the settlement of many conflicts is not yet found. Russia will continue to encourage the parties to the Bosnian conflict not to lose the chance of peaceful settlement and will contribute to the operation for its implementation under U.N. command."

"The international community, Andrey Kozyrev said, seems to have turned a blind eye on Afghanistan and Angola as soon as they ceased to be pawns in the Cold War game. The United Nations has no right to leave millions of people who live there face to face with the epidemic of ethnic and clan, and religious extremism and to forget about economic and humanitarian problems, including liberation of former Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan."

Meets Yugoslav Foreign Minister

LD2909024093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0040 GMT 29 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN, 29 Sep—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held talks on Tuesday [28 September] in New York with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Vladislav Jovanovic. They discussed different aspects of the settlement in former Yugoslavia. Andrey Kozyrev underlined that Russia was prepared to promote the idea of state-by-stage removal of UN Security Council sanctions in parallel with the implementation of an agreement on a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, after—or if—it has been signed, of course.

Talks With ROK Counterpart

LD2909025093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0049 GMT 29 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN, 29 Sep—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Han Sung-chu in New York on Tuesday [28 September]. The talks centered on questions of bilateral economic cooperation, and in the light of South Korean intentions to participate in the G7 program of incentives to private enterprise in Russia. The ministers also advocated a speedy and cool-headed solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

Kozyrev, Japanese Minister Discuss Yeltsin Visit

PM2809125793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 7

[Nikolay Tsvetkov report: "Third-Time Lucky for the Japanese? Tokyo Looks Forward to Yeltsin's Arrival Once Again"]

[Text] Tokyo—A much-talked-about event is about to happen. After meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Tsutomu Hata, in New York Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev reported that the matter was finally resolved and that Boris Yeltsin was going to Tokyo. In response Hata expressed his joy and immediately dispatched senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials to Moscow to settle the details.

The Russian Federation president's first official visit to Japan will take place 12 through 14 October.

Andrey Kozyrev stressed that a good basis for carrying out the visit had emerged and that the Russian side would in no event postpone it for a third time. Let us recall that last September the visit was called off three days before its planned start and that this spring Boris Yeltsin expressed the idea of possibly going in May, but again that did not materialize. In July, while taking part in the Tokyo G-7 meeting, Yeltsin again made a public promise to come to Tokyo no later than the fall, while he told the vice president of Sony after being shown around that renowned firm "See you again in October!"

There is no doubt that the Japanese Government and the Japanese people will give President Yeltsin the warmest welcome. This, along with support for the reforms being carried out by the Russian leader, has been stated by Hata and his boss—head of government Morihiro Hosokawa.

Andrey Kozyrev said that Moscow had noted the very opportune words of support expressed by the Japanese side to President Yeltsin and reported that the political situation was returning to normal.

The Japanese newspapers write that Hosokawa's government is "not very optimistic" about the possibility of progress being made in settling the most difficult question in bilateral relations—the territorial issue. They cite an INTERFAX report that the ministers reached agreement in New York that the document crowning President Yeltsin's visit will make no mention of the 1956 Soviet-Japanese Declaration, which enshrines the Soviet side's undertaking to hand over the islands of Habomai and Shikotan to Japan after the conclusion of a peace treaty.

For its part, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has described the INTERFAX story that the ministers came to a mutual understanding on not mentioning the 1956 declaration as "pure invention."

Ministry Spokesman on Trip

LD2809152193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—"It's too early yet to speak about concrete results of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan," said Grigoriy Karasin, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department at a briefing held here today.

"Therefore, one can dismiss commentaries made by some media, including those with reference to officials discussing possible final documents, as rash and inappropriate," he said.

The Russian diplomat pointed out that over a dozen joint documents are being prepared for signing which are called upon to make a tangible contribution to the legal basis existing in the relations between the two countries.

"Speaking about the practical importance of the visit, the visit is undoubtedly "called upon to give a new powerful impetus to the development of the entire range of Russo-Japanese relations, which recently have been definitely on the rise," Karasin said.

"I believe that the visit, if carried out in mid-October as scheduled, will be tangible proof of the stability of the Russian foreign policy course," Karasin said.

In reply to journalists the Russian diplomat said that there are no grounds to believe that the visit will be postponed. There has been no official announcement about the visit yet which is customary in the international practice. Therefore, it is premature to speak about the exact date of the visit and its itinerary, the Russian diplomat pointed out.

Delegation in Tokyo To Prepare

LD2809161993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo September 28 TASS— A Russian delegation arrived here today to prepare the official visit of President Yeltsin to Japan, which starts on October 12. The delegation includes bodyguard and protocol specialists, who will draw up a detailed programme of the stay of the Russian leader in Japan and tackle problems dealing with his safety.

Fifteen documents are expected to be signed during the visit, ITAR-TASS learned from reliable sources. A joint statement on the two countries' approach to ways of a further development of their relations is of special importance. The main part of that document has already been coordinated, sources say. Japan agreed to a major concession to Moscow by making clear that it is not going to insist on including in the statement a paragraph mentioning the 1956 declaration, in which the USSR promised to turn over to its southern neighbour part of the South Kuril Islands after the signing of a peace treaty. Previously Tokyo had assumed a tough stand on that issue, which created tension at bilateral consultations on more than one occasion.

Japanese Ambassador Previews Visit

LD2909111693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—The forthcoming visit by President Boris Yeltsin to Japan (this October) "can become the first major step of our two countries on the way of turning them into partners sharing common values", Japanese Ambassador to Russia Sumio Edamura said in an interview with the VOSTOCHNYY EKSPRESS weekly.

The ambassador expressed hope that the Russian president's visit "can give a new impetus to the development of bilateral relations in all the spheres", including the economy, trade, science, technology and culture.

Japan rendering assistance to the Russian Federation understands well how important for Russia to establish democracy and a market economy. This is of great importance both for Russia and the entire international community, Edamura noted.

Proceeding from this understanding, Japan paid much attention at first to the April meeting in Tokyo of the G7 foreign and finance ministers, which was also attended by the Russian foreign and finance ministers, and later to the July G7 summit.

"If we compare our efforts to give assistance to Russia with the present level of political relations between Japan and the Russian Federation," the ambassador continued, "some people believe that the latter somewhat lag behind."

When Russia became a sovereign and independent state, many people in Japan pinned great hopes on a radical improvement in bilateral relations.

President Yeltsin stressed in his message to the Japanese premier that Russia and Japan are potential allies sharing common values. But a sudden delay of the Russian president's visit to Tokyo in September 1992 triggered talks that Russian-Japanese relations cooled, the ambassador continued.

However, there is a trend for their improvement after Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo for the G7 summit. "I have an impression that our political relations will come to a normal channel," Edamura noted.

Turning to Russian-Japanese economic relations, the ambassador paid special attention to the premise that the Russian Far East can play a substantial role in improving cooperation between the two countries.

He underlined that Japan regarded and regards the development of relations, above all, with the Russian Far East as an important part of its policy of assistance to Russia.

Visit Seen as 'Painful' for Japanese

PM2809074093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Nice Surprise for Japanese—Yeltsin Coming After All"]

[Text] Tokyo—President Yeltsin will arrive in Tokyo 12 October, and at the start of this week a Russian advance party will be going to Japan to prepare all the formalities associated with the trip. The Russian foreign minister informed his Japanese colleague of this in New York over the weekend, despite the difficult situation at home and contrary to the logic of diplomatic moves in this regard.

The head of the Japanese cabinet, who is also currently in the United States, expressed the hope that there would be fruitful discussions in October. But after this formal response there was time for some hard thinking about the forthcoming summit, which the Japanese had already given up on. The visit has been "revived,"

but—as an analysis of local assessments shows—the prospect engenders no sincere enthusiasm in Tokyo.

The Japanese are assuming that, instead of a full-fledged working dialogue on urgent problems, October will see the first, revealing foreign trip by the Russian reformer-president since the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet. It will be aimed at showing his voters and the rest of the world that the position in Russia is stable. In other words, as was the case this summer at the G-7 summit in Tokyo, Japan will again have to restrict itself to the role of a considerate host that understands its partner's difficulties and avoids any painful subjects or harsh overtones. The Japanese realize that, guided by the general G-7 line of supporting Russian reform, they will, instead of being on an equal footing, again have to play up to their Russian guest—and this undoubtedly depresses them.

Their annoyance is compounded by the fact that the situation cannot be remedied. In formal terms Yeltsin has been crystal clear with Tokyo. He is keeping his summer promise to visit, and thereby bringing to an end the negative sentiments associated with the two-time cancellation of the Japan trip in the past. He is even compelling the Japanese to make a high assessment of the October visit as a courageous step conditioned by a sincere desire to revive the moribund bilateral dialogue.

Against this backdrop they simply cannot bring themselves to rebuke the Russian side for being unconstructive. People in Japan realize that in the current situation it is impossible to demand or expect any more from Yeltsin—the Russian president's very arrival in Tokyo can be considered a major move forward, and if during the course of the talks the guest should reaffirm the existence in a bilateral context of the unresolved territorial issue, then that would be an outright success for the Japanese side.

Until quite recently the starting point in Japanese thinking had been the idea that Yeltsin should go further than Gorbachev, and that without such progress relations would mark time. But now the Japanese agree to assess a return to 1991 as a diplomatic success, and such a change in approach is also painful for Tokyo.

During the Yeltsin visit Japan will have to amend its famous principle that politics and economics are inseparable in contacts with Russia. This principle, as is well known, links progress in economic relations with progress on the territorial issue. But—and this is already obvious to the Japanese—there will be no progress on this issue in October. Instead, they will have to talk favorably with Yeltsin about economic matters, if only because the agreed G-7 policy obliges them to do so.

Incidentally, anonymous Japanese Foreign Ministry staff, commenting in the mass media on Yeltsin's decision to come, are hinting that anything could still happen as far as the visit is concerned—until the president disembarks at Tokyo airport, the visit cannot be considered definite.

Commentary on Need To Build Confidence

OW2909063193 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin is scheduled to visit Japan 12 October. Moscow considers this visit to be very important. Japan probably feels the same, too.

The world today is witnessing many instances where nations that were at war have become partners. For example, Israel and the PLO have come to terms after half a century of war—unnatural war—since the end of World War II, and have concluded a peace accord as neighbors.

During President Yeltsin's planned visit to Japan, some agreements are expected to be concluded. Talks will likely be held on a number of specific issues that are pending. However, what is important—as Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata has also said—is for the two nations to build mutual confidence through a summit meeting. This should open the way to possibilities for broader economic cooperation that has not been tapped so far. And there will arise the strong possibility for the two powerful nations to contribute to stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Good neighborly relations between the two countries should also contribute to resolving the most difficult of territorial issues—that is, the issue over the four islands in the southern Kurils chain. It can be said that President Yeltsin's last scheduled visit to Japan did not materialize because the Japanese Government continued to press this issue on Russia like an ultimatum. It is hoped that Japan will understand it should not direct all bilateral talks toward the territorial issue. Russia admits this issue's existence. President Yeltsin has made it clear that, in principle, he intends to discuss the issue during his visit.

However, such an important issue must be handled very carefully, taking into consideration legal matters, social conditions, and mutual interests. The president will be visiting Japan at a very difficult time for Russia, amid a serious political crisis. The fact that Yeltsin wants to go ahead with his planned visit can be said to indicate that he is very sure of where he stands.

We welcome the fact that Japan Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has expressed his support for President Yeltsin's efforts to bring about democratization and reform in Russia. Prime Minister Hosokawa has expressed the hope that President Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Japan will open a new page in Japanese-Russian relations. Preparations are being made in Moscow toward the same end.

Commentary Notes Concern Over PRC Nuclear Test Stance

OW2909014493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Commentary by station observer Yuriy Solton from the "Good Evening, China" program]

[Text] Dear listeners, the first batch of speeches delivered at the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York stresses commitment to the nonproliferation of mass destructive weapons, including, first of all nuclear weapons, as the most important mission.

Our station observer Solton has written on this topic as follows:

There are five universally recognized major nuclear powers in the world: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China. However, another 20-30 countries may have the capability to produce their own nuclear weapons. According to reconnaissance information, Israel and Pakistan already have nuclear weapons. North Korea and a number of other countries have been suspected to be in the process of producing nuclear weapons. Moreover, two former Soviet republics, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, also possess nuclear weapons. Therefore, the worries expressed at the General Assembly session are reasonable. We cannot rule out the possibility of using weapons of mass destruction in future regional conflicts. Belgrade once threatened to use such weapons.

Then, what kind of measures will be more effective?

First, we should strengthen the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty which expires in 1995. China, France, and South Africa have recently joined this treaty, but some countries, such as India, regard the treaty as discriminatory. Naturally, the treaty can be, and needs to be, improved. The proposal to change the treaty to a perpetually binding one is correct.

Speaking at the session, U.S. President Clinton made an important proposal of stopping the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium. The United States has already done so since 1992. Russia is also implementing a plan to close down plutonium-producing reactors. According to a special decree by Russian President Yeltsin on conditions governing the export of nuclear materials to nonnuclear nations, importing nations' nuclear plans must be strictly supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Naturally, what is important is to reach a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. For the time being, the five major nuclear powers have temporarily suspended nuclear explosions.

However, reports from Beijing have made people worried. According to the reports, China has neither confirmed nor denied it plans to conduct nuclear explosions. Resumption of nuclear tests will seriously hamper the nuclear nonproliferation system. It is hoped that the current General Assembly session will formulate strict regulations to stop the nonproliferation of weapons of massive destruction.

Shokhin Views Economic Moves at IMF, World Bank Meeting

LD2909084893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0045 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Andrey Loshchilin]

[Excerpt] Washington, 29 Sep—The political crisis in our country, which reached its climax in September, has become a virtually insurmountable obstacle in the way of stabilizing the economy and its structural reorganization. The decisive steps taken by President Yeltsin last week are aimed at settling this crisis by democratic means, and in this way to create a foundation for progress toward market reforms. This was stated on Tuesday [28 September] by Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers and a manager of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on behalf of the Russian Federation.

Speaking at the fall session of the heads of these major multinational credit and financial organizations, which is being held in Washington, A. Shokhin said that in the past few days the Russian Government has taken a number of important measures in the sphere of finance and currency. Inter alia, it has eliminated grain purchase subsidies and totally abolished Central Bank loans on preferential conditions. Our government is determined to take all necessary measures in order to achieve macroeconomic stabilization and implementation of structural reform, said the head of the Russian delegation at the session. While doing this, we hope for understanding and support on the part of the IMF, and we are looking forward to an approval of the second tranche of the $3-billion credit from the systems transformation facility set up in spring 1993. [passage omitted]

Andronov Sees Israel, West Behind Corruption Charges

PM2809150193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Supreme Soviet People's Deputy Iona Andronov by Political Editor Boris Slavin; place and date not given: "On Intelligence Officers, Informants, and Corrupt Elements—People Who Are Preparing Compromising Materials Against the Country's Leaders"]

[Text] Supreme Soviet People's Deputy Iona Andronov, in the past a journalist and international relations expert, addressed a Supreme Soviet sitting on the problem of corruption. Today we are publishing his conversation with Political Editor Boris Slavin.

[Slavin] Iona Ionovich, in your speech in the Supreme Soviet and later on the "Parliamentary Hour" program,

you expounded facts about the link between the problem of corruption in the higher echelons of power and foreign intelligence officers. What is the thrust of these facts?

[Andronov] There is one peculiar facet of the campaign to expose corruption. All compromising materials derive from one source of information. The temporary removal from their posts of A. Rutskoy and V. Shumeyko, V. Barannikov's resignation, and the campaign against General Prosecutor Stepankov—all of this is the result of documents obtained from the safes of the Western commercial firm "Seabeco."

[Slavin] What does "Seabeco" mean?

[Andronov] The first letters in this word represent the names of the children of the firm's boss, Boris Iosifovich Birstein, and the remaining letters (beco) stand for "Birstein and company."

[Slavin] Who is Birstein?

[Andronov] This enigmatic millionaire emigrated from Vilnius to Israel in 1979. Having lived there for some time he became fabulously wealthy, although other emigrants like him led positively modest lives there. With the unexpectedly large amounts of capital he had acquired, Birstein started to establish various commercial companies around the world. Before long, he moved his base from Israel to Europe (Zurich), and also to Canada (Toronto). Having opened large bank accounts there, Birstein began major commercial operations in the resale of raw materials and metals from the USSR, and later from Russia.

[Slavin] But the resale of raw materials is nothing reprehensible nowadays.

[Andronov] The fact is that, in addition to commercial operations, he provides personal services to many of Russia's top functionaries and their families. Among other things, it is claimed that when Barannikov's wife went to Switzerland he helped her to make various purchases, including fur coats and fashionable handbags, to the value of $80,000 in all, which is a fairly hefty sum. Birstein settled these accounts, and later passed them over to B.N. Yeltsin. Barannikov's enemies then used these facts against the security minister, and as a result he had to resign.

[Slavin] Does Birstein get involved directly, or does he have aides?

[Andronov] Birstein himself rarely gets involved directly as he does not like publicity—he rarely meets the press. In general, he is helped by his staff or acquaintances. One of his staff is the notorious Dmitriy Yakubovskiy (otherwise known as "General Dima"), who was a close friend of Shumeyko and other top functionaries in Russia. Now they appear to have fallen out. Nevertheless, all compromising materials which Yakubovskiy conveyed on such eminent figures in Russia as Vice President Rutskoy, General Prosecutor Stepankov, and others he took from Birstein's safes. In addition to Yakubovskiy, television commentator Andrey Karaulov, lawyer Andrey Makarov, best known as "Tanya," and other "informers" became Birstein's right-hand men.

[Slavin] Are you really saying that it was not because Barannikov was B. Yeltsin's opponent that he was forced to resign?

[Andronov] Barannikov is portrayed as B. Yeltsin's opponent now, but you know he served the president faithfully and truthfully. He would, as they say, do anything for him. In short, he was his faithful servant.

[Slavin] So why was he "pushed out of the way"?

[Andronov] When the Kremlin bosses were fighting among themselves, he was accused of lacking zeal in his work. Nowadays they are frantically seeking a more ardent servant than Barannikov.

[Slavin] Are you sure that Barannikov did not stand in opposition to Yeltsin?

[Andronov] I have my own reasons for believing this. When Barannikov was minister, I bumped into him in the White House corridors and I asked him: "Have you stopped having me followed?" His reply was that he had "not actually conducted any such operation." But I have a document indicating that, at the behest of Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze and on Barannikov's orders, I have been shadowed since July last year. I can show it to you.

[Slavin] Why were you being shadowed?

[Andronov] In order to find out where I get the secret documents. In particular, matters centered on a secret memorandum signed by Foreign Minister Kozyrev and Vladimir Lukin, former chairman of the International Affairs Committee, on a project to transfer the four southern Kuril islands to Japan in 1992. I discharged my civic and parliamentary duty by publishing this document.

[Slavin] Iona Ionovich, let us get back to the theme of the conversation on compromising materials against functionaries in the highest echelons of power. What interests me is just why Birstein got involved in gathering compromising materials against our top officials, and who is behind him?

[Andronov] The pro-Yeltsin IZVESTIYA answered this question very well. This newspaper wrote that Birstein's rapid rise could be explained by his close cooperation with the Israeli secret service Mosad. On this score, given its positive attitude toward Israel, IZVESTIYA can be trusted. The newspaper in question recently published a document bearing the signatures of Rutskoy and a certain Mr. Benjamin Keret [surname as transliterated], who was born in the United States but lived for many years in Israel. B. Keret rose to the rank of colonel in the Israeli secret services. This Keret also worked for Israeli

intelligence. He died recently in mysterious circumstances. Now it is in his name that Vice President Rutskoy is being dishonored, although in my view this document is a forgery.

[Slavin] Do you mean the document submitted by Andrey Makarov?

[Andronov] Yes.

[Slavin] They say that this document was "done" by computer.

[Andronov] I don't know, nor can I affirm, how it was put together. They say it is a forgery, as the original was not produced. A notary confirmed that this document is a copy, and you know how copies are easily falsified.

[Slavin] Nevertheless, you have not said precisely who is behind B. Birstein. I do not think a simple, nonprofessional trader could deal so successfully in compromising materials against Russia's top officials without receiving the appropriate instructions from above, from more powerful individuals.

[Andronov] You are right. Birstein, Yakubovskiy, Makarov, Karaulov and the like are small fry; standing behind them are specific political circles in the United States and Israel which are interested in destabilizing Russia. These forces, with the aid of the intelligence services, are achieving their political aims by compromising Russia's top officials. In this connection, I want to note that Birstein's closest friend and tutor, who has safeguarded his career and activity, is an Israeli citizen, one Refa'el Eytan. He is one of Israel's top intelligence officers (not to be confused with military General R. Eytan, his namesake.) Refa'el Eytan is a first-class professional intelligence officer. He is a kind of politician who specializes in major international operations. He headed a special top-secret department of the Israeli secret services Lehen [as published]. Just what this department does can be judged by the fact that R. Eytan was an adviser to Prime Minister Shamir on counterterrorism.

[Slavin] What does the term "counterterrorism" mean?

[Andronov] By Israeli standards, it is large-scale political terrorism aimed not only against individuals but also entire states. For instance, the aircraft and missile attacks on the reactor in Baghdad and various political and military headquarters, assault troop and commando landings, and so on...

[Slavin] So what we are seeing here is a close link between the intelligence services and the military machine.

[Andronov] Military and political. In a bid to depict the scale of R. Eytan's activity I will list his biggest operations, such as the elaboration of a plan to do away with Khomeyni (the operation was postponed at the request of the shah of Iran), the secret deliveries of American and Israeli weapons to Iran for the war with Iraq, the provocative preparations to blow up an aircraft belonging to an Israeli company, and so on. R. Eytan cooperated closely with Robert MacFarlane, adviser to the U.S. president on national security, former CIA Director Robert Gates, and so on.

[Slavin] What do you believe should be the conclusion drawn from the facts you cite? Is it not so that the compromising materials being handed over by secret services from abroad are, in some cases, corroborated?

[Andronov] We Russians should think about whether or not we are again being taken for fools. After all, compromising materials are being thrown at the leaders of both rival camps from one and the same source—the friends and subordinates of R. Eytan. I am not saying that people like Shumeyko and Barannikov have nothing for which to be reproached. Obviously they have, unfortunately, been caught out, they have been shown as weak. Associating with people like Birstein and Yakubovskiy, they made use of their services, they sent their wives abroad, they made purchases through swindlers. I do not condone these people, but sometimes we have to look around and take note of just what is going on. Could it be that the our heads are being knocked together deliberately?

[Slavin] Why?

[Andronov] I think the aim is clear. To take advantage of the degeneration going on in our country, the tragic position of the people, and the power vacuum [bezvlastiye] in order to attain ever greater political destabilization in Russia and totally discredit Russia's leadership in the eyes of the population. People I meet say that the whole thing is a disgrace to them. There in the higher echelons, everybody is on the take. Everybody. They sling mud at each other, and they think that whoever slings the most mud will win. In actual fact, everybody loses here: supporters and opponents of the president and the country's current leadership, although it should not be forgotten that this is our own, Russian leadership. When they say that everybody is on the take, this discredits the authorities in general.

For one thing, this is not so: In our country, in Russia, there are some honest people left. Second, I would like to draw attention to the fact that all of this started from abroad, from where it is being and will continue to be conducted. I would not be surprised if new compromising materials against Rutskoy and other Russian leaders appeared soon.

[Slavin] Tell me, how did the West react to your speech in parliament?

[Andronov] Radio Liberty asked Aleksandr Kotenkov to comment on my speech, and he said roughly the following: "It is not important to me where the documents came from. The main thing is whether or not somebody is a thief, whether or not he took bribes." Of course, this needs to be established. But it is also necessary to know where the documents came from. You will remember periods in our history when Stalin, for instance, wanted but was unable to do away with the Red Army military leadership. Hitler

slipped him a falsified report about top military leaders, and we were left without a Red Army leadership on the eve of the war. As a result they rolled in as far as the Volga. As for Kotenkov himself, he is one of those who served Yakublovskiy, who can be considered an agent provocateur, an opportunist, and a swindler. He was mysteriously recalled from Moscow, and went to Canada via Yerevan. When he was in the Supreme Soviet, we was no more than a major—now he is a major general. For what services?

[Slavin] He won glory in the matter of banning the CPSU.

[Andronov] Fine. He got in with Yeltsin, but he could have been honored in some other way. What exactly does it mean to be awarded the rank of general? This is a bribe in its purest form, given in the guise of a general's stars, the corresponding pension, and other benefits. And yet this man is debating the moral issue of whether or not somebody did or did not accept a bribe.

[Slavin] Are you afraid of being sued by those whom you have labeled "corrupt," "informants," "swindlers," and so on?

[Andronov] I will be only too pleased if they do sue. Then I will be able to express publicly in court what I think and know about them.

[Slavin] What are your sources of information?

[Andronov] I obtain information thanks to former links. For 30 years I was an international relations expert and journalist. For 12 of those years I worked in the United States. I get information from New York, Tel Aviv, and Montreal. Although you could read about most of the facts I have have cited in our press, and the foreign press.

[Slavin] Do you have additional proof?

[Andronov] If they want to investigate what I say and get information from people in the know, giving them assurances of their personal safety on Russia's territory, I am prepared to arrange to bring to Moscow one of my main sources of information. He has of late been a very important staffer in the Israeli secret services. He is ready to give further information on the questions I have broached with you in this conversation.

[Slavin] What compels him to make this move?

[Andronov] He has his own reasons for it. I have spoken with him twice this year, and he is ready to help us Russians.

[Slavin] I heard that you were accused of anti-Semitism and of collaborating with the KGB. Is that true?

[Andronov] Of course not. I have never been either an anti-Semite, or a KGB collaborator.

[Slavin] What, in your view, are you? A patriot?

[Andronov] A patriot, but not a jingoist.

'Observer' Assesses NATO Expansion, Collective Security

PM2809125393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev "Observer's Remarks": "NATO: Stabilizing Factor or Instrument of Hegemony?"]

[Text] NATO countries frequently describe their organization as transatlantic on the basis that it includes states located on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. How the future of this organization is viewed on the other side of the Atlantic was the subject of an article titled "NATO: Looking to the Future or Pining for the Past?" published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 September. But how is the bloc's future viewed by organization members located on this side of the ocean? This question, which is interesting in its own right, is particularly significant because 14 of its 16 members are located here. And the most dramatic events of our time—the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the unification of Germany, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, and, following that, the breakup of the Soviet Union, all took place in Europe.

Europeans Are Pondering the Alliance's Future

Naturally, the future of the North Atlantic Alliance worries the Europeans no less and perhaps even more than it does the Americans. Discussions on this matter are going on at sessions of the bloc's political and military organs, in government circles in European countries, and in the press. Meanwhile very diverse opinions are being expressed, ranging from the view that NATO has already outlived its usefulness and should be disbanded to the view that it should now supplement itself with new members drawn from the states of Central and East Europe, and thus become even stronger.

Disregarding the most extreme views which are a customary feature of any debate, we can isolate a number of key points around which discussions are taking place: NATO's place in the modern world, the U.S. role in the alliance system, the attitude that should prevail toward a united Germany, the involvement of the bloc's armed forces in peacekeeping operations—including operations outside the boundaries of its so-called "zone of responsibility"—and the question of other states' signing up to the Atlantic pact. There are of course other problems requiring analysis and decisions, but ultimately these are merely products of those listed above.

So, what of NATO's place? As in Washington, in the capitals of NATO's European states it is thought that the threat of a simultaneous, full-scale attack in all theaters of hostilities can be ruled out at present and will remain unlikely in the foreseeable future. But there is an increased danger that conflicts like the one in Bosnia will arise on the bloc's southeastern and southern flanks. And whereas some believe that in order to settle these crises it is necessary to resort more readily to involvement by armed forces, others incline primarily toward political means of resolving problems that arise. These differing

views have appeared in sharp relief at various stages of the evolution of events in the former Yugoslavia.

On the whole, however, NATO's European members also concur that the alliance must not only be preserved but also strengthened, in order to ensure rapid and effective action in crisis situations through reliance on well-equipped and trained general purpose forces.

Leadership That Causes Alarm

The matter of the U.S. role is more complex. Here there is no unanimity. Europe realizes that the leading role of the United States is the pivot of the entire alliance. However, people are saying with increasing frequently that the U.S. leadership should be more "selective" in nature. In areas where everybody's interests are involved, it is certainly the case. But in other cases Washington should remain in the shadows, realizing that leadership, as Zbignew Brzezinski once wrote, "means the need to make decisions which the Europeans are unwilling to make." After all, in the final analysis bloc membership presupposes that the citizens of a certain state will fight and die for the interests of another. Hence all members should acknowledge the communality or similarity of their interests and values, bearing in mind that alliance commitments could draw a particular country into a conflict in which it has no wish to be involved. The Americans, however, sometimes behave with a candor, not to say cynicism, that shocks the Old World.

Thus Pentagon chief Les Aspin has presented the Europeans with a direct ultimatum-style demand that they be ready to act outside the boundaries of the alliance's geographical borders. And U.S. Ambassador to NATO Robert Hunter has said without a hint of embarrassment: "In theory it is possible to imagine that in the distant future the Europeans will be able to guarantee their own security without U.S. participation. However, this could only occur after several decades(!)."

There are other aspects to this problem. NATO members are still jealously watching to see how the financial and other burdens of participation in the alliance are parceled out. Moreover, the Europeans are practically unanimous in their view that Washington is overstating its demands and trying to shift onto them the burden of maintaining its troops in Europe. At the same time there is no doubt that the European states themselves are keen to preserve the U.S. military presence, regarding this a pledge of U.S. participation in the continent's affairs.

As far as relations with a united Germany are concerned, this problem is not so much being discussed as "borne in mind." It is one thing if the FRG really is to become one of the main bulwarks of a united Europe and West European structures are to absorb Germany, so to speak. It is another matter entirely if in the course of time a united Germany embarks on a path of economic and possibly territorial expansion, thus turning into a superpower that will set itself up in opposition to other Western countries and could even cause the North Atlantic alliance to explode.

If events develop according to the first scenario, this would suit the NATO partners fine. But what if the second scenario is played out? Here once again it should be recalled that from the very outset the alliance played a restraining role with regard to a rearmed Germany. So it is time—indeed a little late in the day!—to make this role a priority. Otherwise, it will be extremely difficult to hold back German expansion later on.

Nor is the debate on the issue of NATO forces participating in peacekeeping operations outside the bloc's "zone of responsibility" dying down. Moreover, while this discussion continues, alliance member countries are being drawn ever deeper into such operations, above all in Bosnia. It is becoming clear that political methods of resolving conflicts and crises are currently not effective enough, and the conflicts themselves are turning into permanent hotbeds of tension.

A Full Range of Diverse Opinions

For all the diversity of opinion on this score, the conviction prevails that NATO should make a real and appreciable contribution to the business of establishing stability in Europe. Otherwise, it could lose public support and its future will be placed in jeopardy. However, at present nobody has a clear idea of the form this contribution should take.

Finally, a word about the broadening of NATO's membership. In the opinion of the London FINANCIAL TIMES, the acceptance of East European states into the alliance has become a key component of all the discussions about its future. Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia are all knocking at the door of NATO headquarters. Poland is knocking very insistently, the Czech Republic more cautiously, but they are knocking all the same. The Russian president's consent to such a step has merely added fuel to the flames. But here is what the experienced politician U.S. Senator Richard Lugar noticed on returning from a trip around Europe: While saying that they welcome the strengthening of ties with East European countries, West European capitals are not in agreement with the idea of expanding the North Atlantic alliance, just as, incidentally, they are not keen on enlarging the bloc's "zone of responsibility" or according it new functions. The West Europeans' behavior is clearly being influenced by the considerable difficulties that have arisen in the FRG as a result of incorporating the East German laender into the country and adapting them to a unitary state.

So what is Russia's view of the problems and future of NATO? Here too the spectrum of opinions is wide. There is a view that the alliance is a stabilizing factor and a mechanism for guaranteeing security not just in the North Atlantic region but also far further afield—across all or nearly all the territory of the former USSR. Hence the conclusion is being drawn that we need to cooperate closely with the alliance or even become a member of it.

Others, on the contrary, believe that NATO was and still is an instrument for maintaining American hegemony in the world and is therefore hostile to Russian interests.

Neither the former nor the latter are right, I think. We should be talking about strengthening the collective security system embodied by the CSCE. And the relics of a bloc system from the past do not help but merely get in the way of strengthening this system. It is time to resurrect the fruitful idea of international security "from Vancouver to Vladivostok," formulate an appropriate mechanism, and put it into practice.

U.S. Test Aims To Clarify Nuclear-Conventional Divide

PM2809132193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 3

[Viktor Karasev report under "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "The United States Conducted an Explosion on a Nevada Site, But Not a Nuclear One"]

[Text] The United States has conducted a powerful underground explosion on a nuclear site in the state of Nevada. But, as ITAR-TASS reported, citing a statement by a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Energy, this explosive device did not contain components of a nuclear weapon, although its yield amounted to approximately one kiloton. This test was conducted for military purposes within the framework of research aimed at "improving" the terms of the nuclear test ban treaty.

The purpose of such tests is to study the consequences and the nature of the effect of large-yield explosive devices which are categorized as conventional kinds of weapons but which can easily be regarded as nuclear in terms of their external attributes. It has been decided to clearly define the borderline between these two concepts and, on the basis of the information gathered, to revise the terms of the nuclear test ban treaty. Representatives of many countries were present when this explosion was conducted.

IZVESTIYA Gives Background on Defector Oshchenko

PM2909085793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Aleksandr Krivopalov report: "Fugitive KGB Colonel Begins 'Handing Over' His Agents to British Counterintelligence"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted: The trial has begun at London's Old Bailey court of Michael Smith, a 47-year-old electronics specialist formerly employed by EMI and, from 1986, at the Hurst Scientific Research Center, who is charged with leaking defense technology secrets to Soviet intelligence, for which he was allegedly paid around 16,000 pounds sterling. Smith was exposed by his alleged KGB contact, KGB Colonel Viktor Oshchenko, counsellor at the Russian Embassy in Paris, who defected recently.]

From IZVESTIYA's Dossier

The 52-year-old KGB Colonel Viktor Oshchenko held the high rank of counsellor in the embassy table of ranks, and was officially responsible for economic questions. Before France he worked in the embassy in Britain. People who knew the former intelligence agent describe him as a professional who preferred—as was quite proper—to remain in the shadows.

When the winds of perestroyka reached Soviet establishments abroad, Viktor Oshchenko, a member of the embassy Communist Party, according to eyewitness testimony, came across as orthodox. They claim that he energetically opposed the departyization of the embassy and advocated the retention of basic CPSU principles.

Oshchenko and his wife and their youngest daughter were last seen on French soil 24 July 1990 on a street in Paris. Not long before his departure for Moscow he had sent home by sea a "Volga" bought in Belgium, complaining that it "smoked." Earlier he had sent a French cultivator to Moscow, which he intended using to work his garden plot outside the city.

A search for Oshchenko and his family undertaken in Paris by our embassy and the police was unsuccessful. The search was called off after it was discovered that the Russian diplomat, together with his wife and daughter, was in Britain.

Various hypotheses have been put forward concerning his "exit," which surprised the Russian Embassy. Some still believe that his links with Western special services go back to the years when he served in Britain, and, possibly, was close to another KGB defector—Gordiyevskiy. Others believe that Oshchenko lost the firm ground under his feet after the old party-KGB structures collapsed.

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses Mideast Tour

LD2809185293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] As a co-sponsor of the Arabian-Israeli peaceful process, Russia is augmenting its efforts to settle the conflict and believes that "the loss of rate in the settlement process can lead to destabilization of the situation in the region." This statement was voiced by the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa and Middle East Department Viktor Posuvalyuk at a briefing on Tuesday [28 September] in Moscow. Posuvalyuk and First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin have recently returned from a trip throughout this region.

In Posuvalyuk's words, after the trip they have come to the conclusion that the parties involved into the conflict intend "to lead the peacemaking settlement process to its logic end."

Posuvalyuk also reported that in Damascus he had contacts with representatives of several Syria-based Palestine delegations. As he said, though not all of them adhere to the Palestinian-Israeli accords, nevertheless, all of them reject coercive methods to reach these agreements. "Russia deems it useful to establish direct contacts between representatives of all Palestinian organizations with the PLO leadership and is ready to assist in this process," he noted.

Mandela Call To Lift South Africa Sanctions Welcomed

LD2809180693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By Dmitriy Vosboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia welcomes the call for lifting all economic sanctions against South Africa made by the president of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, said [Foreign Ministry spokesman] Karasin.

According to him, Moscow views the lifting of trade, investment and financial sanctions against South Africa as "an act that gives the green light for intensifying relations between Russia and South Africa in all directions."

"It goes without saying however that we intend to strictly observe the still remaining UN embargo on armament supplies to South Africa, till a new coalition government is formed there," Karasin pointed out.

Servicemen Interviewed on Conditions in Yugoslavia

LD2809192493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0745 GMT on 28 September broadcasts a program titled "Man and Law."

The program contains a six-minute video report about Russian servicemen serving in former Yugoslavia as part of the UN forces.

Over video of servicemen marching, damaged houses in rural areas, UN vehicles, signposts showing directions to Bogojevo, Osijek, and Vukovar, armed servicemen running between huts, and armored personnel carriers, an unidentified correspondent says that Russian soldiers are serving in former Yugoslavia as part of the UN forces for the first time. The Russian battalion is deployed in one of the most dangerous areas, near the town of Vukovar. An unidentified Russian soldier, standing outside with a incident record in his hands, says that "literally every 10 minutes today there has been some kind of shooting."

The correspondent goes on to say that Russians serving here risk their lives every day. Asked about compensation, checkpost commander Lieutenant Andrey Volkov says that "a year ago, if any of our soldiers were wounded, he would get about one-eighth of his wage here, which is about $100."

Asked if servicemen sign any contracts prior to being deployed in Yugoslavia, battalion commander Sergey Voznesenskiy says: "Yes, servicemen who arrive here to serve do sign contracts but, unfortunately, these contracts fail to mention social protection."

The correspondent goes on to compare conditions of service of Russian and Belgian servicemen, who are also stationed here. Interviewed outside with clips of fortifications, barbed wire, houses, and UN vehicles, Major General Vladimir Ulyanov says that "there are no documents providing for the deployment of our battalion in Yugoslavia, at least at the main staff. The Foreign Ministry may have them. This is their prerogative. The Finance Ministry may have them since they provide hard currency. But the main staff, our chief directorate responsible for financing the battalion, has so far received no such documents." Chief Military Procurator Valentin Panichev interviewed in his office, stresses the importance of resolving the issue of the servicemen's legal status.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Management of Social Insurance

LD2809150993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—President Yeltsin signed a decree on Tuesday [28 September] on the "management of state social insurance in the Russian Federation."

The decree circulated by the press service of the Russian president today, reads as follows:

For purposes on enhancing state guarantees for social insurance and until the Federal Assembly-the parliament of the Russian Federation, adopts a legislature on state social insurance in the Russian Federation, I hereby decree:

To entrust the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation—with the management of the state social insurance with the participation of all-Russia associations of trade unions; to establish that the management of the foundation of social insurance be carried out in accordance with the procedure and terms envisaged by the Russian president's Decree No. 822 "On the foundation of social insurance of the Russian Federation" of August 7, 1992; monetary funds of the foundation for social insurance shall be made up at the expense of insurance contributions in the amount established by the legislature and purpose-oriented allocations from other sources.

Insurance payments shall be made by enterprises, organisations, institutions and other economic subjects regardless of the forms of property except cases envisaged by the existing legislature; to preserve at enterprises, institutions, organisations and other economic subjects the existing order of payments and financing the state social insurance, regardless of the form of property; the Council of Ministers, the Government of the Russian Federation, shall take the necessary measures to ensure guaranteed payments to social insurance and the purpose-oriented use of the funds allocated to social insurance and timely and full payments of contributions to the social insurance foundation by insurance holders.

Point 4 of the Russian president's Decree No. 822 of August 7, 1992, shall read as follows:

"To establish that the chairman of the foundation for social insurance and his deputy chairmen are appointed by the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, while members of its board shall be endorsed by the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation; the present decree comes into force since the date of signing."

Paper Publishes Yeltsin Edict on Bread Allowances

PM2909131193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Edict No. 1450 issued by President Boris Yeltsin "On Bread Allowances for Low-Income Citizens," in Moscow on 25 September]

[Text] For the purposes of the social protection of low-income citizens in connection with the upcoming introduction of free prices for bread and for bread and flour products I decree:

1. It is to be laid down that the payment of bread allowances to low-income citizens as a measure of an anticipatory nature must commence before the introduction of bread prices based on the actual prices of grain purchased for the production of bread and of bread and flour products.

2. Partially altering Point 1 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree No. 928 of 21 September 1993 "On the Procedure for Determining the Price of Bread," free prices for bread and for bread and flour products are to be introduced in the regions by decision of the organs of executive power of the components of the Federation after the commencement of actual payments of bread allowances for low-income citizens out of the funds of the Russian Federation's republic budget.

3. E.A. Pamfilova, Russian Federation minister of social protection of the population, is to ensure within three days the fulfillment of Point 2 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree No. 794 of 13 August 1993 "On Bread Prices" in the sphere of determining the categories of persons rated as low-income citizens, as well as the procedure for paying these allowances.

4. This edict comes into force the moment it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.

[Dated] 25 September 1993

Yeltsin Acts To Speed Payments to Agricultural Producers

PM2809141593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Yelena Yakovleva report: "New Yeltsin Edict Will Help Peasants To Recover Debts From Trade and the Processing Industry"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict "On Streamlining Settlements for Agricultural Produce and Foodstuffs."

As we have already said, Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun recently met with the president. They told Boris Yeltsin about the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex

and asked him to solve a difficult group of problems—making trade partners pay agricultural producers for the produce receive. The situation is as follows: A kolkhoz or private farmer delivers milk under contract to a plant, which takes it but pays no money for it. This period of nonpayment can sometimes last up to two months. According to the minister of agriculture's figures, the trading system owes processing workers (and they in turn own rural producers) more than 1 trillion rubles [R] (the debt to country people is R493 billion).

Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Viktor Khlystun insisted on legitimizing priority settlements with the countryside. The question of prepayment [bezaktseptnaya forma oplaty] was even discussed.

The president then issued the directive to draw up an edict.

Now, under the president's edict, settlements with agricultural suppliers will take the form of compulsory planned payments with the amounts and frequency of payment laid down by contract—but not less than three times a month. As of 1 October 1993, failure by purchasers to make payments on time will result in a penalty of 1 percent of the unpaid sum being paid to the supplier each day.

Instructions to pay for delivered agricultural produce will be placed by banks in their files of unpaid settlement documents and be paid after payments have been made to budgets, the pensions fund, the employment fund, and the medical insurance fund.

The Agrarian Party and the Agro-Industrial Complex Workers Union Central Committee are threatening to stage a general 24-hour strike by peasants in late September-early October. But the edict removes one of the rural producers' main demands.

Economic Problems, Prospects Under Yeltsin Assessed

MK2809145093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Ilya Zasurskiy report under the "Forecast" rubric: "Presidential Course's Economic Prospects Are Not So Favorable Even If Parliament Does Not Hinder It"]

[Text] In principle, if speeches by the apologists of the introduction of presidential rule can be trusted, the purpose of this action is to speed up economic reform. According to this theory, the parliament disbanded by presidential edict was the main brake on economic reform. The list of accusations against the Supreme Soviet includes the laws it failed to adopt (on land and on securities [zalog]) and its continuous struggle with the government on the subjects of privatization and financial stabilization. The parliament was also accused of incessantly heightening tensions between the branches of power and scuttling financial stabilization by adopting the laws on indexing pensions and wages, and other bad deeds.

According to this theory, once power is transferred to the president for a specified period of time, and then to the president and a popularly elected new parliament, the aforementioned problems may be removed partially, if not fully:

1. The laws that were never passed by the parliament will be enacted by presidential edicts or by the new parliament. The "Chubays-style privatization" will be completed by the time new elections are held.

2. The government will manage to pursue a policy of tight spending cuts and increasing budget revenues, while combining this with a beautifully thought-out, clear-cut industrial policy.

3. At the same time, the government will be able to pursue a well-calculated course with regard to the regions, making it possible to keep separatism away from the still stable parts of Russia and turning others' separatism into a nonexplosive vector of the devolution of power along with strengthening the Federation's integrity.

4. Amends will be made to relations with neighbors, and a unified Russia will come into its own in a grandiose economic union.

It is common knowledge that nothing lasts forever, including public support. The example of East European countries makes it possible to state right now that right-wing forces are losing support among the population much more rapidly than they initially gained it. As Herzen said: "Try to think about socialism if you have a toothache or if your shoes pinch." With regard to present-day conditions, this statement could be rephrased as follows: Try to dream of a market economy if you earn 15,000 rubles.

Will the president be able to deliver the goods with regard to economic reform in the six months left that virtually amount to a "time of troubles?" Given universal poverty, will the state be able to sustain the burden of its own "population," and is it feasible to raise budget revenues so as not to stifle business and industry?

Proceeding only from the arguments and facts mentioned above, these questions cannot be answered. We can, however, also understand the president involved in a struggle with the deputies. After all, at a time of continuing conflict between the executive and legislative branches, why shouldn't he try to do Russia a great favor by lifting it from economic ruins—for generations to come, if not for ourselves! Here, however, we encounter the problem of the regions' economic sovereignty.

Regions could be divided into two groups depending on the presence or absence of single regional leaders: either there is a leader (Bashkortostan, Tatarstan, Yakutia (Sakha), Karelia, Komi, Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, Kalmykia—Khalmg Tangch—, and a number of others)

or there is none (regions where the executive and legislative branches have differed in their approaches to the current crisis, and also some regions that came out in support of the president).

It is only logical that the president's drive for power has been backed by the administrations of regions lacking a pronounced leader; they need the authority of the executive branch just as badly as Moscow does. It is equally logical, however, that the political stability and clout of regions headed by serious leaders enables them to maintain neutrality. If the president actually "wins" in the struggle against the parliament, he is bound to be disappointed—this is just the beginning. He will still have to haggle with the regions (while at the same time trying to keep Russia together and to pursue financial stabilization) that have been maintaining neutrality or do not divulge their stances (as a matter of fact, they make up the majority). He has yet to win around 30 uphill battles with local parliaments from places that sent a letter demanding that his edict be rescinded and simultaneous early elections be held.

Moreover, if reaching agreement with stable regions is more costly, coming to terms with regions headed by defiant soviets will prove much more difficult.

So, what is it that the president could do during his cohabitation with the Federation Council? Financial stabilization is doomed to be sacrificed to regional (because some regions will participate in early elections only if their interests are satisfied), sectoral, and social interests. As a matter of fact, the first bills "for backing Yeltsin" have already come in, including the demand by Kuzbass miners that transport tariffs be regulated by the state. As for social interests, whether they will manifest themselves openly or not depends on the momentum and luck of the presidential policy of providing the needy with targeted assistance instead of subsidizing everybody: the IMF has long warned the government against this method, including in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In addition, it serves to save money in the government budget.

However, at a time of a full-blown state crisis, seen against the backdrop of the search for extra government revenues (the Council of Ministers decree "On the Transfer to New Rent Rules"), the president's concern about the poor (his fresh edict "On Bread Markups To Be Paid To Badly-Off Citizens") will hardly reverse the waning support for the reform course among the voters.

In short, in order to take serious steps along the path of economic reform (excluding privatization, which may only acquire some regional characteristic features), the president is bound to drastically reduce his chances for reelection. Will Yeltsin up the ante, which, theoretically, may prove his last chance? Even if he does, will the game be worth it? Reform makes sense only if it is a long-term, consistent policy, but six months is not a long period.

The only thing that could be done without running the risk of alienating the Russians is to pass reformist legislation. The president should be given credit for having taken a number of steps in this direction.

As for the economic union, the excessive pomposity and haste that accompanied its creation (effectively before the political battle was over), give grounds to interpret this event as a political show rather than a long-playing plot in the CIS countries' economic policy.

In principle, the future of the economic union will depend on whether Yeltsin manages to avoid new upheavals and hyperinflation in Russia while keeping regional ferment under control. This is precisely what is problematic.

Intention To Cut Budget Deficit Seen Beyond Reach

MK2809143493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 58, 28 Sep 93 (signed to press 27 Sep) p 3

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report under "Finances" rubric: "The Intentions of the Russian Government Are Serious. The Results Are Not in Evidence So Far"]

[Text] The first steps by the Russian Government in executing Viktor Chernomyrdin's decree "On Urgent Measures To Ensure Financial Stability" testify to the seriousness of the Russian Government's intentions to eventually achieve a budget with a planned deficit not exceeding 10 percent of GNP by the end of the year.

Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov has stated in particular that owing to the change in its political situation, Russia will live according to the government's budget until the end of the year and proclaimed the abandonment of mutual clearing procedures and replenishing current resources. On 23 September the government's commission on credit policy established a ceiling for the growth of centralized credits to finance the budget deficit in the fourth quarter in the amount of 4.6 trillion rubles, proposing to cover the shortage of financial resources in excess of the stipulated deficit by reducing nonpriority expenditure programs and searching for new revenues. In addition, the government has obligated the Central Bank to raise the refinancing rate to 200 percent.

Experts generally agree that there are no real revenue growth sources for the budget. Moreover, the present political situation will apparently dictate the need to "appease" the regions and, as a result, undo all the Finance Ministry's attempts to obtain from them tax payments into the federal budget. The abolished Supreme Soviet has already floated a trial balloon by proclaiming in its Saturday decree a tax exemption for the regions.

At the same time the Finance Ministry is getting some room for maneuver following the transfer of four nonproduction funds to the government's jurisdiction which, according to expert estimates, total some 2 to 2.5 trillion rubles of resources. The struggle for the largest

one of them—the pension fund—began back in 1992. Its utilization to cover the budget deficit (and according to last year's results, the volume of all extra budgetary funds has nearly twice exceeded the deficit) was urged by then-Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk and Aleksandr Shokhin, who was in charge of the social sphere until June 1992. Nonetheless, Mikhail Zakharov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's committee on social policy, refused to budge an inch, presenting the very idea of using these funds for such purposes as a blasphemy.

Now, under the president's edict, it is precisely Vasiliy Barchuk who will head the Pension Fund. However, the government's possibilities for using resources from this fund should not be overestimated. First of all, it is used to make current payments to 18 million Russian pensioners. Second, a number of indirect signs suggest that far from all of the fund's resources—and they were invested by parliament into various commercial undertakings—will be found.

As for expenditures, over the last few days the cabinet has made a number of decisions aimed at cutting subsidies to the agrarian sector. A decree has been adopted on abolishing as of October 1993—and in some regions as of 1 November—the monthly indexation of procurement prices and introducing free prices for grain and a number of other agricultural products purchased by the state. The government has also sought to shift onto the shoulders of related branches—the procuring, processing, and distribution sectors—the problem of mutual settlements by making it obligatory to first make settlements for agricultural produce. In addition, in the very near future a decision is also likely to be made on cutting centralized import subsidies, which, according to preliminary estimates, may save the treasury approximately 0.5 trillion rubles.

Things are more complicated in the fuel and energy sector, the second largest area of state subsidies after the agricultural sector, but in contrast to agriculture, it forms Russia's payment balance.

Although new Economy Minister Yegor Gaydar has stated the intention to end easy credits for state sectors and enterprises, no concrete moves are so far envisioned on cutting subsidies for the fuel and energy complex. The cabinet has taken steps to reduce subsidies to the agricultural sector after the harvesting campaign. As for relations with the fuel and energy sector, the beginning of the heating season is dictating its terms. Already now the regions have sharply increased their demands for credits in connection which the onset of cold weather. Thus, the Siberian Agreement association, headed by the not unknown Novosibirsk governor, Mr. Mukha, a few days ago demanded from the Russian Government the provision before 10 October of the requisite soft credits to Siberian regions following the start of the heating season.

Overall, in spite of the decisive intentions of the Russian Finance and Economy Ministries, prospects for the Russian budget are far from cloudless. So far Russia is reaping the fruits of the summer pro-inflation policy both of the Central Bank and of the government itself.

Military Issues

Kamchatka Flotillas Put on Higher Alert

MK2809152393 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 58, 28 Sep 93 (signed to press 27 Sep) p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka—Informed sources say that two flotillas of nuclear submarines and surface ships of the Kamchatka military garrison have enhanced their combat readiness by a factor of one, which does not at all mean that an "unusual or extraordinary situation in the military formations" prevails but is a planned training action since flotilla commanders can raise their alert status without orders from Moscow. The oblast's inner soviet denies any part in it.

Grachev Signs Order on Draft, Discharge for Oct-Dec

PM2809151993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Order of the Minister of Defense: "On the Military Draft of Russian Federation Citizens for October-December 1993, and on the Discharge Into the Reserves of Soldiers, Sailors, Sergeants, Ranking NCO's, and Military Constructon Personnel Who Have Completed the Established Period of Military Service"; dated 16 September and signed by Army General P. Grachev, minister of defense]

[Text] In execution of the 13 September 1993 edict of the Russian Federation president, I order:

1. That soldiers, sailors, sergeants, ranking NCO's, and military construction personnel who have completed the established period of service be discharged from the Russian Federation Armed Forces into the reserves in October-December 1993.

2. That it be incumbent upon military district commanders and military commissars in conjunction with local administration heads to ensure the organization and implementation in October-December 1993 of the military draft into the Russian Federation Armed Forces and other troops and troop formations of Russian Federation citizens born in the years 1966-75 inclusive who are not entitled to exemption or release from the military draft.

3. That this order be published in all regiments, batteries, and squadrons, and on ships.

[Signed] Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense

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Regional Affairs

North Ossetia Parliament Extends State of Emergency

LD2909110793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1031 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 29 TASS—The parliament of North Ossetia decided on Wednesday [29 September] to extend the state of emergency in several regions of the republic bordering on Ingushetia and also said that the way out from the current political crisis in Russia lies through early parliamentary and presidential elections.

The state of emergency is prolonged for two months from September 30 to November 30 on the territory of the Mozdok region, part of the territories of the Pravoberezhnyy and Prigorodnyy regions and in the capital of Vladikavkaz.

The parliament noted that the criminal situation in the regions bordering on Ingushetia remains complicated.

A resolution adopted by the parliament says that "the most optimal way out of the political crisis in Russia is in early elections of the parliament and the president".

Regions Propose Solutions to 'Tax Deadlock'

PM2809075993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Diordiyenko report: "Tax Arrears Total 1 Trillion Rubles"]

[Text] One after another, oblasts, krays, and republics are adopting decisions to halt or to reduce payments into the federal budget because the local budget, owing to the the center's dilatoriness, is falling apart at the seams: Even those sums which have been agreed at all levels are received at local level very late or in curtailed form. Such decisions have been adopted by the authorities of Altay Kray, Yaroslav and Belgorod Oblasts, Udmurtia, and a number of other regions. They are demanding: Leave more tax revenues at the local level; what is the sense in sending money to the center and then receiving it back in the form of subsidies? The government replies: We cannot, because the federal budget is empty. This is the vicious circle that has developed.

Everyone today is trying to find a way out of this vicious circle—the center and the regions, the legislative and the executive. Participants in a conference held in Moscow on improving the way territorial budgets are formed have also been searching for some solution. At this conference regional representatives presented their complaints to the Supreme Soviet and the government, which still cannot resolve the question of forming the budget for 1994. They are seeking from the territories the elaboration of uniform tariffs and norms for payments into the federal budget for all federal taxes. In their opinion, both the federal and territorial budgets should be adopted taking account of the regions' opinion.

A whole series of specific proposals to break the "tax deadlock" were put forward at the conference. Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission for Plans, Taxes, and Prices, believes that only a few types of basic taxes should be established at federal level: on profits, on individuals earning excessive incomes, a customs tax, and an extrabudgetary fund tax. All the rest should be assigned to regional jurisdiction. He believes that, in order to supplement the budget, customs duties on the importation of a number of goods could be increased, while simultaneously reducing some export duties. In his opinion, there is also room to increase excise duties. Expenditure on the executive apparatus must also be substantially reduced.

Deputy Economy Minister Yuriy Petrov announced that the government is examining the possibility of reducing tax on profits generated through increasing the volume of production, but at the same time intends to tighten controls on excessive wage increases.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Aleksashenko proposed that Federation components be permitted to introduce their own taxes, at the same time pointing to the need to demarcate the responsibilities between the central and local authorities.

The conference elaborated the basic principles for the formulation of territorial budgets and expressed to the Supreme Soviet its wish to see a number of budget laws adopted at the fall session. Perhaps this will help break the tax vicious circle.

And meanwhile...

The state tax service announces that in the first six months of the year the volume of tax payments into the Russian budget came to more than 11.4 trillion rubles [R], of which R4.7 trillion, or 41 percent, were paid into the federal budget. According to preliminary estimates, tax arrears are approaching the R1 trillion mark.

Tatarstan Premier Assails Fedorov Over Budget Payments

PM2809135393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Dmitriy Mikhaylin report: "Budget War Under Way. Mukhammat Sabirov: 'It Is Not We Who Are Ruining Russia, But Minister Fedorov'"]

[Text] Kazan—Apropos of the letter from Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov to the federal government in which he, referring to an "epidemic of nonpayment" by the regions into the the federal budget, demands that harsh sanctions up to and including an economic blockade be taken against against a number of republics which, in his opinion, were its instigators,

Tatarstan Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov gave the following appropriate response:

[Sabirov] I must first say that in my capacity as a Russian people's deputy I will very soon be demanding the finance minister's resignation. I am certain that the majority of my colleagues from the regions will support me. It seems to me that this man is deliberately making the situation more unstable, though I do not know who is behind this. And not only in the area of finance. The Russian prime minister and most of the vice premiers have been to Tatarstan with the aim of studying the situation. But Fedorov himself, if he is not sitting in his Moscow office, is always on a business trip to the United States. He is in general behaving in a somewhat strange manner: After we had with great difficulty reached mutual understanding on taxes, he sent us a threatening letter several days later containing completely different conclusions and demanding that we carry out his order. There is a limit to anybody's patience.

But let us look at the figures, which, as we know, are the best argument. During the first eight months of the current year, about 100 billion rubles [R] have been diverted from Tatarstan into the federal budget to finance those requirements which Russia was supposed to finance. Tatarstan's total contribution to the federal budget amounted to R133 billion on 1 September 1993. How can there be any talk of defaults on payment?

But in order to regulate the system of payments from the Tatarstan budget into the federal budget, a special intergovernmental agreement on taxes and the budget should be signed in the near future, which we have been saying is necessary for more than a year now.

Just last year we reached an accommodation with the previous finance minister, Barchuk. But he was relieved of his post. The document was simply not signed, which in many respects was the fault of the present finance minister, even though, in my view, it put forward a solution which suited both sides: Tatarstan pledged to pay 15 percent of the total amount of taxes collected on its territory into the federal budget for such all-Russian needs as defense, space research, ecology, transport, and so on.

It seemed that we had also found an acceptable solution with the present Russian Ministry of Finance leadership: Tatarstan rejected the single-channel system. The amount of the republic's contribution to the Russian budget was determined by the transfer of a portion of each of five taxes. We expected that this document would be confirmed. But after some time Fedorov sent the letter I mentioned at the beginning. Were it not for Minister Fedorov's tyrannical behavior, we would already long ago have paid the requisite amounts into the federal budget.

Now he is threatening to cut off finance from the federal budget for the military-industrial complex, higher educational establishments, transport, and other federal facilities situated on our territory. There are two ways out of this situation: either to allow a social explosion of unprecedented strength, or, more realistically, to make all enterprises without exception the property of Tatarstan.

We may also declare a tit-for-tat war on the Russian Government: They are promising not to provide the republic with cash, so we will introduce our own money; they wish to withdraw our oil export quotas and close customs services, so we will turn off the oil pipelines from Tyumen which cross our territory, stop trains from passing through, and turn off the electric power. Just imagine what would happen! But we will never go this far. What is more, I regard this statement by the finance minister as an expression of his own personal opinion and that of a group of shortsighted people in the Russian Government.

Differences in Food Prices Among Regions Noted

PM2809102393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Svetlana Ulanova of the Russian Government Center for Economic Conditions: "Central Chernozem Region Has Highest Inflation Rate"]

[Text] The inflation rate of 4 percent from 7 to 14 September was a little lower than the previous week, though it was still very high. During that week the price of non-foods increased more than any others goods—by 5.1 percent. Rates for paid consumer services increased by 4.7 percent. The inflation index as of the beginning of the month amounted to 110.6 percent.

The inflation rate in the Central Chernozem Region was way ahead of that in other regions (7.4 percent for the week). In the Volga and West Siberian Regions the inflation rate was 5 percent. After a certain slowdown in inflation rates in Moscow and St. Petersburg during August and early September, they have again climbed above the average rate for Russia over the past week, at 4.3 and 4.7 percent respectively.

Between 7 and 14 September food prices increased by 3.2 percent (in the previous week by 6.1 percent). Again a significant increase in the price of bread and flour products can be noted—by almost 11 percent for the week (over a six-week period their prices have now increased by all of 1.7 times). Last week vodka became 6 percent more expensive, and eggs, groats, and pasta became 5 percent dearer. After a fairly lengthy seasonal price reduction on vegetables and fruit, prices for them remained practically unchanged last week.

Food price changes differed significantly in the different economic regions. The smallest price increase, of 1 percent, was noted in the Far East region. Over the week the cost of produce increased most sharply in the Central Chernozem region—by 8 percent. The increase affected almost all groups of foods. In Central Chernozem stores the price of vodka increased by 25 percent, of flour by 15 percent, and of bread and flour products, meat products, groats, and fruit by 8 to 12 percent. However, within this

economic region differences in the food price dynamics were as high as 18 percentage points around the various oblasts: from 4 percent in Tambov Oblast to 22 percent in Lipetsk Oblast (this is the highest price increase for the week over Russia's republics, krays, and oblasts).

Since the beginning of the year the prices of basic food products have increased by a factor of 4.7.

The average cost of a basket of 19 of the most important food products on 14 September was 19,900 rubles [R] for a month, showing an increase of 2.7 percent on the previous figure. The cost of the basket remains highest in the Far East region at R33,500 (there you find Russia's most expensive cities in terms of the basket cost: Magadan (R53,500), Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (R39,400), and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy (R37,000). The lowest basket cost is once again in the Volga Region at an average of R14,800, including R10,400 in Ulyanovsk and R22,200 in Tolyatti.

The cost of the basket of 19 most important food products in Moscow and St. Petersburg increased by 3 percent over the week to total R23,800 and R21,400 respectively.

'No Political Angle' to Novosibirsk Airport Closure

PM2909131593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Andrey Chelnokov: "Deputy Will Not Fly There"]

[Text] The "Tolmachevo" airport in Novosibirsk was out of operation for 48 hours. A rumor circulated the city to the effect that there were no flights in connection with the oblast leadership's support for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the newfound president Aleksandr Rutskoy—the aim being to prevent Russian people's deputies from Novosibirsk from flying to Moscow.

"Nothing of the kind," your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent was told by A.G. Lisyanoy, acting first deputy director of the airport. "The airport was closed because of the nondeliveries of kerosene from Angarsk, Ryazan, Ufa, and Perm. Now fuel has come in and flights are regular. So that no political angle can be discerned in our actions."

Centrist Bloc Formed in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast

MK2809152993 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 58, 28 Sep 93 (signed to press 27 Sep) p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—Eleven political parties and movements, including the Free Russia People's Party, the Democratic Party of Russia, the Christian Democratic Union, and the Socialist Party of Labor, among others, have announced the creation of an "oblast centrist bloc." A deputy chairman of the Nizhniy Novgorod City Soviet has been elected the bloc's chairman and coordinator.

New Border Rules Introduced in Kaliningrad Oblast

MK2809153993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report under "Kaliningrad" rubric]

[Excerpt] Head of the oblast administration Yuriy Matochkin has signed a decree introducing as of 1 December 1993 new regulations on Kaliningrad borders. The document provides for the establishment along the state border of a five km border zone on land and along the banks of rivers and lakes. As of now, the entire Kurshskaya spit [kosa] will be part of such a territory.

Border regime rules applicable to state borders with Russia will be established in the zone. Now all persons visiting the border area must have a passport or an identification card as well as documents certifying their permanent residence in Kaliningrad Oblast. Persons who are not permanent residents in Kaliningrad Oblast wishing to enter the zone will have to obtain a pass from units of the Kaliningrad border troops group. [passage omitted]

International Affairs

Zlenko, Kozyrev Satisfied With Black Sea Fleet Agreement

WS2809125893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko has met in New York with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev to discuss bilateral relations. Both ministers express satisfaction with the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' agreement on the Black Sea Fleet and humanitarian efforts to evacuate refugees from the conflict zone in Abkhazia.

International Monitors To Supervise Weapons Destruction

LD2909094493 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2140 GMT 28 Sep 93

["The Defense Ministry press service reports"—UNIAR headline]

[Text] Kiev. 28 Sep—According to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service, an inspection group from Germany's Ministry of Defense has arrived in Ukraine at the invitation of the Ministry of Defense, which in accordance with the Conventional Arms Reduction Treaty, will familiarize itself with the course of the treaty's implementation by the Ukrainian side. This is already the 23d inspection which is being carried out in our state this year.

The group is headed by Paul Khuze [name as received] and will be in Zhitomir and Ovruch. It is planned to destroy 35 combat armored vehicles at the tank repair plant in Zhitomir. Of these, 10 will be converted into general purpose tractors, the rest will be turned into scrap metal.

In Ovruch, out of 25 airplanes, 1 will become a ground training base [as received] and the others will be destroyed.

Durdynets Discusses Security Policy With NATO Group

LD2809120993 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1754 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Statement issued by the Supreme Council Press Center]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, received a delegation from NATO, which consisted of James Bartleman, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Canada to NATO; Vadm Pedersen, admiral of the Norwegian Armed Forces and Norway's representative to NATO; and Hans Johan Peters, representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to NATO and managing director of the political analysis and planning section of NATO headquarters.

Durdynets told the guests about the activity of Ukraine's Supreme Council, especially in guaranteeing Ukraine's external security and in creating a legal basis and preconditions for internal stability. He stressed Ukraine's aspirations to integrate effectively in the European and world political structure, to speed up cooperation with NATO, to deepen existing contacts and links, and to establish new ones.

Durdynets set out Ukraine's position on issues of nuclear disarmament, stressing that our state wants to resolve the issues with understanding and support from the world community while achieving guarantees of national security and financial and economic assistance in order to fulfill the aim of liquidating nuclear weapons.

The guests thanked him for the detailed information on the situation in Ukraine and on the main principles on the basis of which it will confirm its nonnuclear status. Members of the delegation voiced their readiness to assist in implementing Ukraine's foreign policy and gave assurances that the information that was received will be brought to the attention of all NATO member states. Durdynets replied to questions from the guests, who will be in Ukraine until 1 October.

Press Center of the Supreme Council of Ukraine

Officials Meet With U.S. Congressional Research Group

LD2809212593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, Vasyl Durdynets, today received a group of experts, led by the deputy director of the U.S. Congressional Research Service, William Robinson. The guests were introduced to the activity of the Supreme Council under conditions of an exacerbating political and socioeconomic situation and briefed on the nature and volume of work to be performed at the eighth session of the Supreme Council in the midst of preparationd for new elections.

A joint program for the development of parliamentary institutions in Ukraine was accepted with gratitude. The U.S. Congressional Research Service and the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Supreme Council are at present working (?to draw it up). The program is to help increase the efficiency of the activity of Ukraine's supreme legislative body.

Vasyl Durdynets outlined a number of possible steps to broaden interstate relations and deepen interparliamentary cooperation.

The American side expressed its satisfaction with the information provided and set forth its vision of the situation in Ukraine and programs of further joint cooperation.

The head of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, (Leonid Horilyy), and the Ukrainian Supreme Council business manager, (Hryhoriy Bondarenko), took part in the conversation.

The delegation of the U.S. Congressional Research Service will stay in Kiev until 1 October.

This was a report from the press center of the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Appoints New Ministers, Deputy Ministers

LD2809202793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Today the Ukrainian president appointed by decree:

Volodymyr Demyanov as deputy prime minister for issues of the agro-industrial complex;

Vasyl Yevtukhov as deputy prime minister for issues of industry and construction;

Mykola Zhulynskyy as deputy prime minister for issues of humanitarian policy;

Valeriy Shmarov as deputy prime minister for issues of the military industrial complex;

Valentyn Landyk as deputy prime minister for issues of foreign economic activity and investments;

Roman Shpek as minister of the economy;

Valeriy Samoplavskyy as minister of forestry;

Dmytro Chernenko as minister of machine-building, the military-industrial complex, and conversion; and

Yuriy Karasyk as minister of agriculture and food.

First Deputy Prime Minister Named

LD2909010293 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2140 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kiev, 28 Sep—The president of Ukraine, who in accordance with his decree heads the government, has started forming his Cabinet of Ministers. Yukhym Zvyahilskyy has been appointed first deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

Ministry Spokesman Clarifies Status in Economic Union

LD2809225693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1649 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 28 Sep—At a briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yuriy Serheyev, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center, commented on the outcome of the meeting of the CIS heads of state that took place in Moscow. It was observed that many of Ukraine's mass media are currently not interpreting the results of this political event precisely enough, up to the point that the mass media are asserting that Ukraine signed the treaty on setting up an economic union. Serheyev called such insinuations speculation regarding an important document. He stressed again that Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, did not sign the treaty on economic union in Moscow, and that there had been a statement from the Ukrainian side on our state entering the economic union in the capacity of an associate member. Serheyev explained that the treaty envisages the signing of various economic agreements between the participating countries. The associated membership of our country means that Ukraine can accede to some agreements (meaning the agreements which are advantageous to us), and that we can disregard the remainder of the agreements.

Major Political Bloc Backs Leadership on Economic Union

LD2809124293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Alexander Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 28 TASS—The Congress of National-Democratic Forces of Ukraine, one of the country's biggest political associations, has praised Ukraine's position at the talks on the creation of an economic union of the Commonwealth States.

By becoming an associated member of the economic union, Ukraine has preserved all attributes of independence, which enables it to take part in preparing documents within the frame of the economic union which do not contradict its national interests.

The Congress of National-Democratic Forces brings together more than 20 parties, movements, and organisations, including the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the National Rukh (Way) of Ukraine. One of the central announced aims of the congress is to consolidate the Ukrainian people in the struggle for the country's territorial integrity.

Oblast Deputies Oppose Economic Union

AU2809185693 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 18 Sep 93 p 1

[Appeal by the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Council of People's Deputies to the Ukrainian Supreme Council and Ukrainian president; adopted at the 16th extraordinary session on 17 September]

[Text] We, deputies of the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Council, expressing the will of our electorate, state that the exacerbation of the economic and political crisis in Ukraine has largely been the result of the hostile policy with regard to Ukraine on the part of the leadership of

the Russian Federation, a policy aimed at forcing Ukraine into a new colonial yoke.

The crisis in all branches of power within the country, the inability or unwillingness on the part of the government to stabilize the situation in the economy, the absence of a strategic program for economic development, the total lack of control over the situation at borders, and the inept financial policy have placed Ukraine before a real threat of losing its statehood, which the Ukrainian people have strived for throughout its historical existence and for which millions of Ukrainians sacrificed their lives.

The Crimean meeting between the presidents leads us to regard the question of nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine with apprehension; it is an exclusive prerogative of the Ukrainian people and state. We regard the transfer of these weapons to the neighbor, who has been constantly making claims upon our land, as not only inexpedient, but also dangerous. The question of Ukraine's nuclear status and the fate of nuclear weapons located on its territory must be resolved proceeding from the interests of the state and its security and in cooperation with the world, which that would guarantee the inviolability of our borders.

We support the courageous position assumed by Ukraine's Minister of Defense K. Morozov regarding the Black Sea Fleet and categorically protest against using Ukrainian land as military bases of foreign states. We find it unacceptable to resolve the questions of the Black Sea Fleet proceeding from the principles proposed by Russia during the Crimean meeting on 3 September 1993. We regard the protocols signed at the Crimean meeting as such whose implementation would cause irreparable damage to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We look upon Russian claims as encroachments upon our state's independence and a proof of Russia's growing aggressiveness, which presents a threat to peace and security in Europe and in the world, and which will have consequences far more dangerous than the conflicts in the Balkans or in the Caucasus.

We insist, therefore, that the president and the Supreme Council pursue a state policy that would guarantee Ukraine's economic independence as a precondition for its political independence. We are categorically against signing the Economic Union agreement, whose draft contains a number of points limiting the sovereignty of our state.

Our state's decisive and efficient domestic and external policy must become a guarantee for our independence. At present, during the period of the particularly acute political and economic crisis, which may lead to an uncontrolled social explosion, the establishment of Ukrainian statehood must be carried out by way of radical economic reforms, changes in the production structure and in the system of state administration, as well as decisive changes in the cadres.

In this connection we demand as follows:

1. To accept the resignation of the prime minister and of the majority of the members of government whose inactivity and pro- Moscow orientation have become obvious.

2. To ensure the reliable protection of borders and effective work of Customs services.

3. To withdraw Russian troops from the territory of Ukraine.

4. To create an All-Ukrainian Commission for Investigating Crimes Committed by state institutions of the former USSR and by the CPSU. To ban the activity of pro-communist and anti-Ukrainian organizations in Ukraine. The criminal activity against the Ukrainian state cannot remain unpunished, as was the case until now.

5. We demand that organs of state power see to it that a reasonable part of the assets of the former USSR are returned to Ukraine.

6. To appeal to the world community for support for Ukraine's initiatives on holding an international tribunal to investigate facts of the artificially organized famine in Ukraine and to compensate for the losses and damages suffered by the Ukrainian people.

7. To discuss, at the next plenary meeting of Ukraine's Supreme Council, changes to Article 79 of Ukraine's Constitution by setting the period of jurisdiction for the councils of people's deputies at all levels, including the present Supreme Council, at four years.

8. To set the date for new elections of Councils at all levels not later than spring 1994, following which to set the date for holding Ukrainian presidential elections.

9. To adopt, not later than October 1993, Ukraine's law on the structure of state power and local and regional self-government and the law on elections.

The Oblast Council of People's Deputies declares about its readiness to organize acts of civil disobedience in the oblast in the case of signing the Union Treaty or other acts that present a threat to Ukrainian sovereignty.

Kravchuk Creates Coordinating Committee for Reforms

WS2809152393 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The Ukrainian president has issued a decree on a coordinating committee to deal with issues of implementing market reforms and anti-crisis measures. To coordinate activities of central and local institutions of the state executive power, banks, entrepreneurial establishments in Ukraine, and local government institutions, and to unite their efforts directed at the implementation of market reforms and overcoming the economic crisis, I hereby decree:

1. [as heard] That a coordinating committee for issues of implementing market reforms and anti-crisis measures should be established, hereinafter referred to as the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee shall be headed by the president of Ukraine. The composition shall be approved. The composition of the Coordinating Committee for issues of implementing market reforms and anti-crisis measures includes: Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch; Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Leonidovych Zvyahilskyy; Viktor Andriyovych Yushchenko, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian National Bank; Valeriy Heorhiyovych Babych, president of the All-Ukrainian Industrialists' Association; Valeriy Mykhaylovych Heyev, a department head at the Economics Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and a corresponding member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Valentyn Karlovych Mamontov, director the Economic and Legal Studies Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and academician at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Valeriy Ivanovych (Ovdiyenko), chairman of the board of the Kiev People's Bank and the head of the Ukrainian Commercial and Corporate Bank Association; and Finance Minister Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych Pyatachenko.

KHRESCHATYK Interviews Deputy Ministers on Economy

Finance Ministry's Sobolyev

WS2909111293 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 22 Sep 93 p 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Deputy Finance Minister Borys Sobolyev by UNIAN correspondent Lyudmila Nikolaychuk; place and date not given: "Economic Union: There Is Neither Time Nor Unity"]

[Text] As Deputy Minister of Finance Borys Sobolyev told a UNIAN correspondent in an exclusive interview, the first consequence of establishing a ruble zone with its center in Moscow would be a slow down of Russian reform and giving the antireformists more cards to put up their sleeves.

As Mr. Sobolyev said, establishing of a common currency zone is a final step in the integration of market economies that have gone through stages of free trade, customs unions, as well as economic union. We want to begin at the end, and this will have only negative effects. To create such a zone, first of all, the budget policy should be coordinated. This means that expenditures and revenues of all the participating countries should be coordinated. If a government of a certain country exceeds its expenditure level, then appropriate sanctions should be implemented. It is unlikely that all states signing such an agreement would be able to "play fair." Different economic circumstances exist even within the Russian Federation, and a ruble that is in circulation, for example in Tatarstan, not always worth the same as the "St. Petersburg ruble."

In Borys Sobolyev's opinion, a common ruble zone would represent more than a political union, because an economic union lasts longer than a political one. Even more significant is the fact that all the states that might enter into the new ruble zone are Russia's debtors.

On the other hand, Borys Sobolyev believes that we should not make a tragedy of our debts. After all, most countries have debts; moreover, on a per capita basis, they are higher than Ukraine's debt. Nevertheless, political conclusions should be drawn.

Mr. Sobolyev emphasized that if the legislature is not able "to cope" with this country, then it should leave. New people that are capable will come. Legislators are not entitled to judge what their successors are able to do. Those who claim that newcomers will be worse than they are, are hypocrites who fear for their future.

Borys Sobolyev supports Ukraine entering the economic union, if it is a real independent union, based on equal rights. However, if it ends up being dominated by one country, even worse, an underdeveloped and undemocratic country, then it would pose a threat to our economy and democracy.

The conclusion is that there is no unity in our Cabinet of Ministers on the question of economic union, in spite of all the leadership's statements.

Economy Ministry's Kalnyk

WS2909102193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 23 Sep 93 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Deputy Economy Minister Viktor Kalnyk by UNIAN correspondent Lyudmyla Nikolaychuk; place and date not given: "Will Prices in Ukraine's Domestic Market Reach Global Levels in 1994?"]

[Text] [Nikolaychuk] For which products and services are prices being regulated by the state and how does the state compensate for this regulation?

[Kalnyk] The state has mechanisms for regulating prices, although its financial means are very limited. The state still regulates prices for municipal services, public transportation, coal, natural gas, electricity, and retail prices for basic foodstuffs. To discontinue subsidies, the state must reform wages, and then funds currently being used for subsidies can be invested in wages and pensions. This must be part of a comprehensive reform of wages, prices, and the entire monetary system.

Today, we have no funds for such measures, because prices for power remain unstable. They will continue to increase until the second quarter of 1994 as a result of an agreement among Ukraine, Russia, and Turkmenistan. Today, prices for gas and oil we receive from these countries are about 30 percent below the world level. This 30-percent gap will have disappeared by the end of the first quarter of 1994.

[Nikolaychuk] How much capital does the government spend on subsidies to restrain prices?

[Kalnyk] The government needs about 2 trillion karbovantsi [K] for regulating the prices of foodstuffs, some K4 trillion for rent, and huge sums for regulating transportation prices.

[Nikolaychuk] What changes will be introduced by the end of 1993?

[Kalnyk] I think that there will be increases in retail prices and prices of municipal services, however, these will be accompanied by appropriate measures on social security; otherwise, it would be dangerous because of the current economic and political tension.

[Nikolaychuk] So by the end of the first quarter of 1994 the stabilization of prices will curb inflation?

[Kalnyk] Inflation will be much lower, and this will be the result of domestic factors rather than higher prices for power. However, I must say that energy prices may continue to grow, because we cannot rule out high inflation in Russia. We are paying Russia in rubles for oil and gas. Thus, if the ruble exchange rate continues to fall, we will have to factor in the inflation rate to the prices paid for power resources. We must find money to pay Russia in a convertible currency, rather than in rubles.

[Nikolaychuk] Does this mean that Ukraine would gain from paying Russia in dollars?

[Kalnyk] Yes, it would be better if we could pay in dollars and if we could buy refined oil products instead of crude oil, because of the low productivity of our refineries. If we pay world prices for oil, then our gasoline and diesel fuel would cost twice as much as in the rest of the world.

[Nikolaychuk] Will prices in Ukraine's domestic market reach world levels in 1994?

[Kalnyk] I think that like in the rest of the world, domestic prices will fluctuate—some of them will reach the world level while others will be lower or higher. Prices for the majority of agricultural products may be higher than the world level, while prices for our products of our chemical and metallurgical industry will approach this level. However, the world level is not stable. People should not think that as soon as it is reached, prices will be frozen. Still, any hikes will not be as crazy as they were in 1993 and 1994. Gas prices have increased by 20,000 times and oil prices have gone up ninefold over the last 18 months. No Western country, no government, could withstand such dramatic increases.

[Nikolaychuk] Can we hope that the stabilization of the Ukrainian economy will begin in the second quarter of 1994?

[Kalnyk] There is hope that beginning in the second quarter, the external factor will not cause significant price increases in our domestic market, although a decrease in production volume can do this. Then we will have no excuses, because this factor will depend entirely on the state of the national economy. Prices will continue to grow if we print too much money and if production volume continues to fall. We should not hope that the spring will bring stabilization. Stabilization must be supported by measures to enhance the efficiency of our national economy.

Government Approves Measures To Strengthen Border

LD2909131593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] A comprehensive program to strengthen Ukraine's state borders has been approved, on the whole, at the government level. During its preparation, experts proceeded from the founding directions and priorities of our state's foreign policy. The issue is primarily about concluding comprehensive treaties on goodneighborliness with all reliable states, with the aim of finally confirming existing borders and creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, friendly relations, and cooperation on border issues. It is planned to carry out a range of measures by the year 1998 to equip the border to prevent illegal immigration and other violations. Among the wide-reaching measures is one to create a network of checkpoints through Ukraine's border.

Crimean Supreme Council Rejects Chairman's Resignation

WS2809155393 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] At 1030 GMT today, at the Crimean Supreme Council session, Supreme Council Chairman Mykola Bahrov voiced his decision to resign. This happened after the deputies refused to include on their agenda the issue of an amendment to the decree on Crimean Supreme Council elections, which was adopted at the last plenary session. The decree has not lived up to the people's expectations. It has disappointed, first of all, Crimean Tartars, as well as other minorities that were deported. The decree does not provide for national quotas and practically makes it impossible for their representatives to enter the legislature.

Thousands of Crimean Tartars have gathered today around the Supreme Council building to demand the decree be reconsidered and that national quotas be restored. Mykola Bahrov called on legislators to listen to the voice of the people. He proposed the temporary introduction, for one term, of 20 additional seats for representatives of deported nations. The deputies did not support the chairman. Mykola Bahrov later said in a statement that he did not want to remain hostage to circumstances. He demanded the issue of his resignation be put to a vote.

[During the same newscast, the radio later adds: "The Supreme Council has not approved Mykola Bahrov's resignation. Only 13 of the 136 deputies voted in favor of his resignation."]

Crimean Leader Rebuts Remarks by Russia's Rumyantsev

PM2909134393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Semena report: "How O. Rumyantsev Tackled Sevastopol"]

[Text] Simferopol—In Simferopol the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet [Nikolay Bagrov] has given a news conference at which, in reply to a journalist's question, he described his meeting with Oleg Rumyantsev, secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Commission. There follows a transcript of the tape recording made by IZVESTIYA's correspondent of the head of the Crimean parliament's account:

Nikolay Bagrov: I myself heard how Mr. Rumyantsev, on his return to Moscow, commented on his meeting with me on the "Parlamentary Hour" program, alleging that I had behaved boorishly. I would like those words to remain on his conscience. I am very disappointed that a man vested with such high status, who wears on his jacket the badge of a Russian Supreme Soviet deputy, behaves in such a way.

Fortunately, I was not alone when I met Mr. Rumyantsev... With me also was a representative of the Black Sea Fleet, and he can confirm the character of our conversation. I will explain for you right now what Mr. Rumyantsev did not like.

A couple of days before his arrival the phone rang. The caller introduced himself as Rumyantsev. I initially did not even realize who he was. But later on I guessed. He said that he had been invited to Crimea and would like to meet me. I said: Be my guest. Arriving here on Saturday already quite annoyed, as he opened the door of my office he stated: "I see that I am not expected here! There is no welcoming party! Well, never mind, we will get over that!"

I asked him the question: "Pardon me, but who invited you to Crimea?" He replied: "I was invited by public associations." I said: "Well then, please take your complaints to them. Let us get down to business: What is your concern?"

"I would like to consult you on the issue of the Russian Constitution... Look, we are about to adopt the Russian Constitution... We want to enshrine in it the status of Crimea and Sevastopol," Mr. Rumyantsev said.

I said: "Then answer for me the question: Have you already annulled the treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine? Or have you forgotten that your president has put his signature to the Helsinki agreement? Incidentally, that treaty has been ratified in the Russian Supreme Soviet. I do not understand how we can discuss this topic."

He said: "Well, never mind, we will tackle Sevastopol..." I say: "But Sevastopol, as you know, under our Constitution is an inalienable part of Crimea..."

"Yes, yes," he replied. "Could you hand me the Constitution of Crimea?":

[Bagrov] "Yes, of course!"

He said: "So let us return to the topic of the status of Crimea and Sevastopol, and how to enshrine this in the Russian Constitution." To this I replied: "You will forgive me, I respect your deputy's badge, I have the greatest respect for Russia, but for me at the given moment you are a private person, and I cannot discuss such serious questions with private individuals..."

I believe that, despite the fact that Rumyantsev is a Supreme Soviet deputy, this certainly does not mean that he is entitled to behave in this way.

Nationalist Leader Calls For Armed Resistance to Russia

AU2809112793 Kiev NESKORENA NATSIYA in Ukrainian No. 14 (37) Sep 93 p 1

[Appeal by Oleksandr Chernenko, chairman of the Zaporizhzhya organization of Ukrainian State Independence; place and date not given: "If You Want Peace, Prepare for War"]

[Text] The resolution adopted by the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation on recognizing Sevastopol as an integral part of Russia constitutes interference into Ukraine's internal affairs. Such a course of events has always been interpreted as a declaration of war. One might expect that corresponding power structures would take proper steps: severance of diplomatic relations with the northern neighbor, declaration of representatives of the hostile state as personae non grata, immediate taking over of nuclear weapons, introduction of emergency military situation involving full combat readiness of the Ukrainian Army and the National Guard, blocking of the borders with Russia, and suspension of the activity of anti-Ukrainian organizations and parties (RDK [expansion unknown], the "National Salvation Front," the "Slavic Union," "Rus," "White Lily," and so on).

Instead, we became witnesses of Prime Minister Kuchma kissing Chernomyrdin, prime minister of the hostile state, the Economic Union being imposed upon Ukraine, some hopes being pinned upon "democratic" Yeltsin, and illusions being cherished regarding assistance on the part of the United Nations.

It appears that our leadership will only overcome its pro-Moscow complexes when it has to repeat V. Vynnychenko's [head of the Ukrainian independent government in 1918] experience.

The Ukrainian people may only rely upon their own forces and their young people. Ukrainian State Independence [DSU] calls upon the young people to join the ranks of the DSU Guard [Varta] and immediately register as volunteers at military registration and enlistment offices.

It depends upon your activity, my friends, whether we will continue to be slaves or become builders of a free Ukraine!

Belarus

Prime Minister Kebich Holds News Conference

LD2809224393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] "There is no dual power in Belarus," Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich told a news conference in Minsk on Tuesday. Speaking about his relationship with Parliamentary Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, Kebich said: "We have different views but there is no confrontation between the two branches of authority." "It is in no way similar to what's happening in Russia," he said.

Commenting on the assertion that he was trying to have Shushkevich dismissed, made by the latter in an interview with INTERFAX last week (Shushkevich said Kebich was involved in plots against him), the prime minister said he had indeed had a meeting with heads of local executive bodies, some of whom did have complaints about the parliamentary chairman. But that meeting had no authority to deal with such matters as dismissal of top-ranking statesmen, nor did it pursue any such aims, Kebich said.

Commending the documents on forming an economic union within the CIS signed in Moscow on September 24, the premier said, nevertheless, that so far they remained pure declarations. Numerous other agreements were needed for such a union to materialize, but work on them might present problems if the representatives of every member state "were concerned about the interests of their country alone."

In Kebich's opinion, bilateral agreements will be given an important role in forming the economic union. As evidence of the efficiency of such documents, the premier cited bilateral Belarusian-Russian and Kazakh-Russian agreements on merging their monetary systems. In effect, those agreements meant that a single monetary system was being created for all three countries, he said.

As for the current shortage of fuel in Belarus, mainly residual oil (according to Shushkevich's economic adviser, Nikolay Kovalev, the republic's stocks of residual oil can last its central heating systems for no more than 40 days), Kebich said the problem had to do with the recent monetary reform in Russia, when old-type banknotes were withdrawn from circulation. As a result, Belarus had no money to pay for the fuel it was receiving from Russia, he said. "We lost time by recalculating everything in terms of dollars," he said.

Kebich said a new body would shortly be set up to provide top officials with better security. He said the need for this had become clear after the chairman of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Dmitriy Artsimenya, was recently shot dead by some unidentified individuals near his home. The prime minister said neither he nor Shushkevich were provided with adequate security. So security personnel would be increased, Kebich said.

On Markets, CIS Union

LD2909085793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Video report by correspondent Aleksey Zhuk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The CIS countries are now buying Belarusian potatoes in quantities that can only be described as pitiful. Why? Maybe because no one is any longer planning centralized deliveries, while direct links with consumers have not yet taken shape. Yet market conditions require initiative from every producer—not the way things were previously. The one hope is the government. [video shows potato harvesting in progress; V.F.Kebich, prime minister of the Republic of Belarus, addressing news conference]

[Begin Kebich recording] Supposedly, then, the government is not giving market structures the right to develop and is hindering them. But, on the other hand, the government is guilty of not giving us anywhere to send potatoes to. We are not used to thinking independently and making decisions independently. That is a very-...[changes thought] Well, it really is an example that should be cited at all levels. [end recording]

Later in today's news conference, when assessing the Moscow summit meeting, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich pointed out that in order to implement the economic union treaty quite a lot of effort and time would be needed. According to him, Belarus is also developing, in parallel, bilateral relations with the CIS countries. A treaty has been signed with Russia, one with Kazakhstan is pending.

Russian Strategic Troops To Withdraw Ahead of Schedule

LD2809135393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 28 TASS—Russia's strategic nuclear forces will be withdrawn from Belarus two years before the date, set by the Lisbon Protocol—in 1996, said Belarussian Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy, commenting on the defence documents, signed in Moscow by the heads of state and government in the military field. These include the treaty on the status of Russian troops, the agreement on the procedure of their withdrawal to the Russian Federation and the time framework of the withdrawal. The Belarussian defence minister said: "We managed to define clearly the mechanism of that process. Russian troops will be withdrawn together with their movable property, in accordance with

the list of property assigned to them. The so-called immovables will be turned over to the Belarussian side. These include plots of land, buildings and other structures together with all the communication infrastructure of military townships. "Along with the withdrawal of the whole of the Army group deployed now in Belarus (its strength is about 35,000), the Russian side commits itself to make up for the damage, inflicted on the natural environment and the immovables in the areas of deployment of Army units. At the same time, the ecological safety of the withdrawal will be ensured."

All those documents are subject to mandatory ratification by the Belarussian and Russian parliaments and will become effective on the day of the exchange of ratification instruments. "Now it is the turn of the representative authorities to take action," Pavel Kozlovskiy stressed.

Moldova

Reports of 'Another Parliamentary Crisis' Under Way

LD2809184793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau September 28 TASS—Another parliamentary crisis has occurred in Moldova to prove expectations of local political observers.

Today's parliament session has lacked the quorum again, as three deputy factions, namely the Agrarians, the Independent and the Concord, who make the parliamentary majority, abstained from attending the session in response to the unwillingness of their opponents—the Front, the Intellectuals' Congress Party and Unionist movements—to adopt a law on early elections.

This time, the Agrarians seem to be determined to break the parliament, which has compromised itself with three-year-long personal enrichment, construction of personal villas with garages and saunas, re-sale of cars, illegal hard currency operations and other criminal deeds.

In the opinion of legal scientists, the parliament presidium and the president will have to appeal to the people to receive the agreement for the adoption of a law on early elections and setting of their date. Characteristically, the majority of the population calls for the soonest solution of the political problem, which slows down the economic reforms. The current parliament is not able to settle the Dniester and Gagauz issues. As for National-Patriots, they just make use of the situation.

Political Forces Fear Results of CIS Economic Union

AU2809170393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1441 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/9/1993—The political forces of the Republic of Moldova show cautiousness and seem unwilling to express their positions on the signing of the CIS Economic Charter by President Snegur in the name of the Republic of Moldova, probably focusing on pondering the consequences of that decision, broadcasts Mr. Crihana, ROMPRES special correspondent in Chisinau.

Alexandru Mosanu, leader of the Intellectuals' Congress, has condemned "(Moldova's President) Mircea Snegur, (Speaker of Parliament) Petru Lucinschi and (Premier) Andrei Sangheli for taking pains to push the Republic of Moldova into the CIS," an act that "does not serve the vital interests of the Romanians on the left bank of the Prut."

Ciobanu on Advantages of Joining CIS Economic Union

AU2909080293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1922 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/9/1993—Being a member of the CIS economic union recently created in Moscow, Chisinau will start discussing and solving political problems which are of great interest for Moldova, stated to BASAPRESS Ceslav Ciobanu, counselor on economic problems of President Mircea Snegur. Ciobanu stressed that Moldova will profit from the cooperation with the economic union and will be able to start discussing internal problems of Moldova. "Without the pressure of President Boris Yeltsin on Tiraspol authorities it is very doubtful we can successfully solve the problem of eastern regions," explained Ciobanu. He stressed that international cooperation will remain a priority for Moldova. In Ciobanu's opinion, exaggerated political debates overshadow the advantages of Moldova's joining the CIS economic union. "If in one or two years we manage to revive economy, we could look at problems in a different way," said Ciobanu.

Editorial Views Relations With CIS

AU2909080393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1922 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/9/1993—The decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to dissolve the Supreme Soviet and to set early elections strengthened the self-confidence of the Moldovan government. President Mircea Snegur and Premier Andrei Sangheli signed in Moscow the agreement to create the CIS economic union. They took part in the meeting of leaders of CIS states according to the constitutional provisions and prerogatives granted by the parliament presidium. Leonid Kravchuk preferred to consult the Ukrainian parliament before adhering to this union. Under such circumstances President Mircea Snegur had to state that

only four more votes were needed for Parliament to ratify the Almaty agreement. According to Moscow newspapers, President Snegur was confident that Moldova would become a member of the CIS. Even though the Moldovan parliamentary presidium hopes to find a way out of the parliamentary crisis by engaging deputies in debates on the finalized draft constitution, the president made up his mind about the current parliament. The call of Oazu Nantoi, leader of the Social-Democratic Party, for more decisive measures to be taken by the Moldovan president is included in this context. The leader of that party, the influence of which in society is increasing, had made that statement during a press conference on events in Moscow. The majority of the Moldovan political parties support the decree of the Russian president, though some of the parties support it with some conditions. Four members of a Moldovan delegation at the Moscow summit held a press conference. Andrei Diaconu, first deputy minister of economy, stated during the conference that the current parliament was not likely to ratify the agreement on the CIS economic union; if this happens, Moldovan people should pronounce in a referendum on the adherence of Moldova to CIS. Andrei Cheptine, Moldovan minister of external economic ties, stated that the international organizations agree with Moldova's wish to sell its products on the eastern market; they keep granting Moldova the promised credits. The signing of the CIS economic agreements gives Moldova many advantages, analyzing the current needs of the economy. According to the participants at the press conference, an immediate advantage is the lifting of the discriminatory "embargo" imposed by Russia on Moldova. The economic integration of Moldova with the CIS assumes its participation in discussing political problems. Ceslav Ciobanu, President Snegur's economic adviser, gave as example several documents of the total number of 14 such documents signed by the Moldovan delegation, including non-economic problems. The signing of the agreements on the creation of a council of CIS ministers of foreign affairs, the protection of victims of military conflicts, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Victory Day, and other documents of the kind which increase the skepticism of some political organizations that Moldova could be forced to accept other concessions, such as signing the agreement on the collective defense. On the other hand the possibility to stop the federalization of Moldova by concessions did not become more real. In such conditions, the signs of restoring the former USSR can bother even the greatest supporters of CIS. The optimistic statements of Russian leaders that the former Soviet republics gave up trying to penetrate the Western market for the time being is nothing but propaganda: Not only the special position of the Ashkhabad [Turkmenistan] and the Kiev authorities, but also future negotiations on the 35 supplementary agreements [detailing the accord on the establishment of the CIS economic union] should be taken into account. The ratification of those economic agreements by the parliaments of the CIS states is also important.

Yaroslavl Signs Trade Deal With Dniester Republic

PM2809143393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 93 First Edition p 6

[Report from ITAR-TASS, LOGOTIP-KP column]

[Text] For the first time in the Dniester Moldovan Republic's [DMR] three-year history, a Russian governor has signed an agreement with it on trade and economic cooperation.

He is A. Lisitsin, chief of the Yaroslavl Oblast administration and member of the board of the Russian Federation Governors' Union. The conclusion of the treaty with Yaroslavl should not be viewed only in economic terms. It also certainly contains elements of political recognition of the republic; indeed, the oblast concluded a similar agreement with Moldova in March. The northern Russian city intends to supply bitumen, timber and lumber, boards, saw frames and engines, cable, matches, and other consumer goods. The other day four large truckloads of vegetables were dispatched from the DMR to Yaroslavl within the framework of the signed documents.

Snegur, Lucinschi, Sangheli Meet With Union Head

AU2909080093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1922 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/9/1993—Today President Mircea Snegur, Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinschi, and Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli had a meeting with Serafim Urecheanu, leader of the Moldovan Federation of Independent Trade Unions at his request. During the meeting the main stress was put on solving social problems of the population. It was mentioned that a realistic and firm policy will prevent destabilization of the society. Both sides expressed great concern on the fact that "the present difficult situation is used by some extremists who manipulate people to satisfy interests of some groups." In order to solve these problems, participants of the meeting decided to begin urgently the activity of the three-party commission [including members of the government and union and employers' representatives]. In the nearest future the government will meet heads of industrial plants and trade union leaders. A decision was approved on supplementary credits for industry. The question regarding the possibilities of payments for agricultural production, paying out debts to employees, and margins of minimum salary level, were also considered.

Kazakhstan

Country Admitted as New Member of IAEA

LD2809121693 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Summary] The 37th regular session of the IAEA Committee in Vienna has admitted Kazakhstan as a member to this international agency.

Company To Develop Atomic Power Engineering

LD2909081293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] An industrial-financial service has been formed in Kazakhstan's National Nuclear Center (former Semipalatinsk nuclear test range) to implement wide-scale industrial-economic activity aimed at the development of atomic power engineering and ensuring the region's social-economic rehabilitation.

The service is due to open an industrial-financial joint stock company to develop natural resources available at the test range and its own bank to service the national center with branches in Moscow, Alma-Ata, and several other cities.

As Deputy General Director of the National Nuclear Center and the leader of the service Z. Ilmanov reported to INTERFAX, at present the service is working to create joint ventures, commercial structures and holding companies with different firms and enterprise.

In particular, it intends to conclude an agreement on creation of an enterprise to produce household equipment and a joint stock- commercial company Semipalatinskiy Ugol.

Group Seeks Aid for States Affected by Nuclear Tests

LD2909091193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Lyudmila Bondartsova for TASS]

[Text] Almaty September 29 TASS—The Almaty committee of the Global Anti-Nuclear Alliance sent a memorandum addressed to the U.N. secretary-general as well as to the heads of nuclear pool states, the Chinese Government and people.

It expresses ideas, principles and priorities of ecological security of the post-totalitarian countries. The document calls on international organisations to step up nuclear disarmament and do away with the aftermaths of nuclear tests.

The memorandum's authors are the first in the world who try to call the attention of international organisations to the problem of social and legal protection of countries and population who suffered from nuclear explosions.

They suggest that an international union to coordinate the solution of this problem should be established under the U.N. aegis. They also propose that a fund to rehabilitate nuclear- stricken population and regions be set up. According to the authors, the nuclear pool states should be the main co-founders of the fund, since they are the main guilty parties for the ecological disaster.

The committee drafted the principles and priorities of a mechanism for cooperation between non-government organisations and authorities. The committee deplores that ideas which are quite feasible now, have not been even put on the U.N. agenda for the 21st century.

Social Ecology Council Chairman Vasiliy Vasilenko who is also learned secretary of the the problems committee on radiation, ecology and public health of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk Antinuclear Movement, stressed that it is quite logical that the memorandum was drafted in Kazakhstan.

"Our republic has turned [out] to be the dirtiest link in the nuclear technology of the former Soviet Union and suffered most of all from nuclear detonations," the scholar noted.

Kyrgyzstan

Foreign Ministry Official Urges 'Cautious' Policy

LD2809210893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Vosboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] As a country bordering states faced with "unsolvable economic, territorial and religious problems," Kyrgyzstan should follow a "cautious" foreign policy. This statement was made in Bishkek on Tuesday by Deputy Foreign Minister Askar Aytmatov in the framework of a conference on Kyrgyzstan today and on problems connected with the forming of a foreign-policy concept.

According to him, on the world scene Kyrgyzstan earned "the image of a developing nation consistently conducting democratic free- market reforms." "This has made it possible to get financial aid from international institutions and industrialized countries," said the deputy foreign minister.

With reference to Kyrgyzstan's foreign-policy priorities Aytmatov said that Bishkek attaches paramount importance to the development of relations with the CIS countries, with Asian nations and with West European states, in that order. "Our republic is interested in

further strengthening the Commonwealth, because it views this as a condition for overcoming the economic crisis and a guarantee for stability in the region of Eurasia," he said.

Agreement Drafted With Russia on Resettlement Process

LD2809204093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Kyrgyzstan has drafted an agreement with Russia on management of the resettlement process and protection of migrants' rights. Murat Samishbayev, who heads the migration department, told Interfax that the document "will provide a realistic possibility that the uncontrolled emigration of the Russian speaking population in Kyrgyzstan can be managed."

The draft presumes that the resettlement is voluntary and calls for Russia introducing entry quotas so that people who are registered by migration services can obtain information both through the migration department in Kyrgyzstan and through the Russian Federal Migration Services on jobs, lodging and other social rights.

According to Kyrgyz official statistics, a total of 103,000 left the country and 26,000 arrived in the country in 1992. In the first half of 1993 56,000 left and 12,000 came to the country.

Tajikistan

* Opposition Forces Reportedly Captures Town

93P50301A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Sep 93 p 6

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan—High-level sources in the Tajik Nahdah [Revival] Party (the main opposition to the Dushanbe government) told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Tajik mojahedin captured the city of Tuz [Shaartuz] 200 km south of the capital, Dushanbe. The sources added that the Tajik mojahedin, who attacked the city a few days ago, killed 114 Tajik, Russian, and Uzbek troops during the operation. They lost 20 killed and wounded in their own ranks.

Observers believe that the party's capture of the city of Tuz will cut the roads between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. This explains the intensive raids which Uzbek aircraft have launched on the city for five days, resulting in the deaths of a number of mojahedin and civilians and inflicting grave material damage on public facilities.

This is the first important city captured by the mojahedin since the Democratic Alliance government was overthrown last year and the Communists came to power. A high-level official in the Nahdah Party told AL-HAYAH that it has become easier for the mojahedin to move toward the capital "and they will continue their advance after taking control of [the city]."

The Tajik Islamist opposition is rushing into a war against the Communist forces ruling in Dushanbe supported by the Russian forces. The opposition is using the northern Afghan territories as a springboard for their attacks.

Tajik Opposition Group Captured Along Afghan Border

LD2809141093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Dushanbe September 28 TASS—An operation for rendering harmless a group of Tajik opposition fighters has practically been finished, a spokesman for the headquarters of the Russian frontier guard troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS. Some time ago the group infiltrated from the Islamic State of Afghanistan at the south Shartuz section of the Tajik-Afghan border. A group of 30 trespassers, blocked previously several kilometers away from the border, was taken prisoner on Monday night. During the operation Russian frontier guards found several arms caches with a large amount of arms and ammunition in them.

Speaking about the situation on the border in general, the spokesman for the headquarters pointed out that it continued to be comparatively calm. At the same time, judging by the current information, the opposition has not given up its plans to go on with armed provocations on the border. However, they changed tactics of the infiltration of small groups across the border.

Attempts to transport arms and narcotics from Afghanistan continue to be made at some sections of the Tajik-Afghan border.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Says Censorship Will Be Retained

PM2209171393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS roundup: "Censorship, Guarantee of Democracy"]

[Text] Addressing members of the Union of Writers of Tajikistan, S. Niyazov, the country's president, stated that for the transitional period it is necessary to retain political censorship in the state.

"I know that some people are unhappy at the existence of censorship in our country," he remarked. "Well, let them say what they want. We are not going to abolish censorship. And if someone sets out to sow intertribal or interethnic discord or impugn someone else's dignity there will never be any place for his articles in the pages of our press."

Armenia

Exchange of Fire Reported on Nakhichevan Border

NC2809204893 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] We reported earlier in this newscast that a serious incident did not occur on the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's front lines and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan yesterday. The sides are heeding the cease-fire agreement. However, tension continues in the region. Azerbaijan is massing reinforcements and military equipment in the rayons close to the confrontation areas. [passage omitted]

Although a relatively peaceful situation exists on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, tension continues to prevail in that region as well. That also applies to Armenia's border with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Several attempts were made by Nakhichevan to worsen the situation on the border in the past. Regrettably, the provocative activities have continued. Obviously, certain forces in Nakhichevan disagree with the measures taken by Azerbaijan's leaders to maintain stability. It is no coincidence that the Armenian defensive positions around Yeraskhavan and Sevakavan in Armenia's Araratskiy Rayon were fired on from Sadarak in Nakhichevan with various types of arms last night. The Armenian forces refrained from taking retaliatory measures for some time. However, the persistent firing forced them to retaliate. No one was hurt on the Armenian side.

Our Republic's military forces are capable of obstructing every kind of provocative activity and retaliating against those who threaten the security of the Armenian people.

Abramian Hopes Baku Will Abandon Military Solution

LD2809223993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] At a meeting with journalists in Yerevan, the press secretary of the Armenian president Aram Abramian expressed hope that the agreement on creation of an economic union signed by heads of CIS states on September 24 in Moscow "will be not another declaration on intent but will be supported by concrete deeds and will work." He is convinced that almost all former Soviet republics are interested in economic contacts because it is easier to sell their products, including on a barter basis, within a common economic market. The press secretary is convinced that it is important "to turn agreements reached into real deeds."

Abramian stressed the importance of the agreement to avoid and prevent blockade signed on Armenia's initiative in Moscow. In his words, all states of the Commonwealth except Azerbaijan have signed this agreement.

As Abramian said, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan believes that while joining the CIS, Azerbaijan takes certain obligations and "we can await that it will finally abandon the military solution of the Karabakh problem and will undertake more active an efficient moves looking for political ways to settle the problem." Abramian expressed hope that Azerbaijan's joining the CIS "will make its dialogue with authorities of both Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia easier."

At the Moscow meeting, Abramian reported, Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders "found it expedient to continue negotiations between Baku and Stepanakert at all levels." The two leaders believe, the press secretary continued, that the authorities of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh should prolong the truce for one more month and finally develop and coordinate all peacemaking measures within this term.

"We pay special attention to this last aspect as we are sure that any peacemaking program can be implemented only with the consent of both Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. As far as Armenia is concerned, we view all diplomatic contacts, including the most recent efforts undertaken by Russia as part of the single process which is to be crowned with the Minsk peaceful conference."

Speaking about the situation in Russia, the presidential press secretary reconfirmed that the position of the Armenian authorities had not changed: the republic's leadership advocates democracy under the preservation of democratic freedoms and creation of a new economic system. "To achieve economic reforms implemented by President Yeltsin and his supporters in Russia, it is extremely important to gain stable situation," emphasized Abramian.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Says Baku Must Liberate 'Occupied Lands'

LD2809194793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Azerbaijan's acting president Gaydar Aliyev said that the top priority of the new national leadership was "liberation of all occupied Azerbaijani lands."

At a meeting with workers of the Baku domestic conditioners factory who had nominated him for presidency Aliyev called on the country's population to mobilize all its strength, all labor resources for this goal. In his view, the Russian-brokered cease-fire in the war zone "creates a good outlook for a lasting peace in the region."

Karabakh units now control about one fifth of the Azerbaijani territory, including the Lachin, Kelbadzhar, Agdam, Fizuli, Dzhebrail and Kubatly Districts.

The Azerbaijani leader called on all political movements to consolidate on the basis of national unity and said that a favorable climate would be created for party activities. Political pluralism is, in his words, a major guideline the present leadership will abide by.

Speaking of Azerbaijan's joining the CIS Aliyev noted the importance of economic integration for the former Soviet Union states. He thinks that interaction in other fields, notably political and military, will also be in the best interests of Azerbaijan.

Aliyev emphasized that the joining of the CIS would in no way weaken Azerbaijan's sovereignty and independence.

Georgia

Abkhazians Reportedly Shoot Ministers in Sukhumi

LD2809173693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Information has been received today from official government sources about the acts of total repression carried out in Sukhumi on the part of the Abkhaz separatists. They shot members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Abkhazia and Zhiuli Shartava, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Blames Russian Minister for Shartava's Death

LD2809155893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpts] It would not be incorrect of me to say that the whole of Georgia spent the entire night anxious and alarmed. [indistinct passage omitted] But when Shevardnadze [words indistinct] returned today, of course everyone sighed with relief. That was at about 0800. [passage indistinct] When he came out to say goodbye to our patriarch and he saw journalists, he said that he would definitely meet them today. He met them around 1400 and described in detail all the events that had occurred in Abkhazia. [passage indistinct]

They were indiscriminate about those that met them: Georgians, Russians, or Armenians. It was the same for all—women and children. Heads of ministries and departments were killed [passage indistinct].

Incidentally, he said that according to versions at his disposal, the plan for the storming of Sukhumi was drawn up at one of the Russian headquarters. I would not like at the moment to say how far this corresponds to reality, but he did note this. To a question as to whether the Georgian leader intended to meet Boris Yeltsin, he said that at the present stage there was no point. [passage indistinct]

He told journalists that [words indistinct] in Gudauta Abkhaz separatists had shot Zhiuli Shartava, the chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers in Abkhazia subordinate to Georgia. If this was confirmed, he said, let his death be on the conscience of [Russian Deputy Foreign Minister] Boris Pastukhov, to whom I personally turned to for help in saving Shartava but who disregarded this request and abandoned the representative of Georgia to the whims of fate.

Concerning the issue of Georgia joining the CIS, the head of the republic voiced the view that this issue could not be resolved without consultation with parliament and the people. We have to return Sukhumi, he noted in conclusion, but before that the main thing is for us to united. Only then will we be guaranteed success.

For the time being, that is all I can tell you so far. I will probably tell you about other events a little later.

Further on Shartava's Death

LD2909084093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] On 28 September an extraordinary meeting of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers examined the military and political situation in the republic, and heard a report by a top intelligence service officer which shed light on the circumstances surrounding the death of Zhiuli Shartava, chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers.

The officer said that his service is in possession of a recording of an intercepted radio conversation between Sukhumi and Gudauta. Gudauta's reply to a question from Sukhumi asking how to deal with Shartava and other prisoners was as follows:

Bring them to Gudauta. They wanted Abkhaz soil. Let them get it.

This dialogue by separatists explains the position of the Gudauta leadership toward the Georgian population of Georgia and Abkhazia.

Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze said at the meeting that when he felt that the life of the Abkhaz Council of Ministers' chairman was in real danger, at his request a telephone call was made to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov in Moscow. [Abkhaz rebel leader Vladislav] Ardzinba promised to Pastukhov that a life corridor would be created for the evacuation of leaders of the Council of Ministers, but such a corridor was not created. [words indistinct] Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that the tragedy is on the conscience of not only the Abkhaz separatists, but also Pastukhov and his accomplices.

Shevardnadze Holds News Conference

LD2809225093 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 28 Sep 93

[News conference by Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze with unidentified reporters at the Supreme Council building in Tbilisi on 28 September—recorded]

[Text] [monitored in progress] [Shevardnadze] ...and evacuate Shartava. Pastukhov did not do it, could not do it or, perhaps would not do it. I cannot tell you how precise the information about his death is and if it is so and if we are witnessing this tragedy, you all know him, I must tell you that he grew up with me, as they say, in my own hands. I valued and value him especially, this would be a big calamity and tragedy. And if this terrible thing happened, then it is on the conscience of not only the separatists but the consciences of Pastukhov's and those who are at one with him. We gave our consent on participating in the Geneva conference, several times, and if Russia's so-called mediation, its role as a mediator has been used and interpreted in this way, then we have nothing to do there [in Geneva]. I have the right to say that as long as the international organizations take such passive stance towards conflicts as it has happened in connection with Abkhazia, there will be no order on our planet.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] As soon as I can make sure that there is a way out and that there is a person who will be acceptable for my people, I will immediately, now, today, make a decision. But we must agree in whose hands we are leaving this country and what the solution is. I have suggested to many colleagues of mine, I must say, such a variant, that perhaps we found a figure in Georgia who would be of a more pro-Russian orientation than Shevardnadze because, I make no secret of it, Russia always has a chance to play any card it wishes if it does not have a figure it needs. Maybe I am excessively honest today but I cannot be otherwise.

[Reporter] Gamsakhurdia has returned and wants to regain power. What measures are you going to take regarding in this?

[Shevardnadze] If my people agree, I am ready to relinquish my place to the former president promptly today, give him every rein of government [meh mzad var dghesve davootmo khopill prezidents, charabaro khvela sadave martvisa] . But I think that the people's wish and elections—about which rather active debates are being held—must decide everything.

[Reporter] According to a confirmed report, Russian President Boris Yeltsin is insisting on a meeting with you. [passage indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] No, he is not insisting. Several days ago I asked him to consider the issue of my possible visit to Moscow. The issue has been discussed, the final decision has not been adopted—anyway, not that I know of—and now the situation has changed and it is hardly expedient to talk about the visit of the head of the State of Georgia to Moscow.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] I was trying the day before yesterday, when the situation got worse, I tried to get in touch by phone but it was impossible to get a connection with the Russian president. I had to send him the telegram with which you are already familiar. The telegram has been handed to him, the prime minister, and the defense minister. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Mr. Shevardnadze, regarding this telegram: We know that you agreed to enter the CIS. [passage indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] It was like, as they say, using my last chance to save Sukhumi and Abkhazia. I adopted this decision without discussing it with my colleagues and parliament. I hoped that expressing this position in such a way would give an incentive for using the [word indistinct] battalion stationed in Sukhumi in peacekeeping aims. There was no talk about it joining in combat actions. The appearance of a unit of a hundred men in Sukhumi's streets would have been enough to stop the bloodshed. As for today, I have no right to make a decision without consulting my people, of course.

[Reporter] I would like to express my sympathy for Shevardnadze's Georgia. As far as I know, there was a Georgian Army unit in the south of Sukhumi which did not participate in defending Sukhumi. Please, could you comment on it? Is there a danger of a split in the Georgian Army?

[Shevardnadze] This group which is in the Ochamchire rayon failed to participate in combat operations for different reasons. The bulk of this group was trying to break through the line formed by the separatists at the Kodori River on the approaches to Sukhumi. The second part of the group did not make a decision to participate in the battle, but this military formation has not been registered and officially established. Whatever happened in this Ochamchire group is a reflection of the confrontation which we deal with in real terms in our life. Had these groups arrived in defense of Sukhumi, the town would not have fallen.

[Reporter] How can the West assist Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I must say that I do not have a big hope that the West would help us in real terms to resolve the crisis. The West—may my colleagues not be angry with me—has calmed down, become tranquil since the end of the cold war, freeing Europe and the disintegration of the evil empire. The West saved billions of dollars. I think it can do a little bit more for those countries who contributed towards this huge and most gigantic historical process in the 20th century.

[Reporter] How many refugees are there from Sukhumi and where are they now?

[Shevardnadze] It is difficult to say how many of them there are as virtually it comprises the whole population of Sukhumi. I was walking in town yesterday early in the morning until 1100 [0900 GMT], I was driving through the town. It is a dead and empty town. The refugees are

being sheltered in the neighbouring rayons now, practically the whole town is. Obviously, they are living in dire conditions and unfortunately, the issue of their evacuation from

Those neighboring rayons are also on the agenda.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] Obviously, if there are any plans. We shall be looking for solutions.

[Reporter] Mr. Shevardnadze, had those forces and political figures who, in effect, are carrying out Russia's task in Georgia, been revealed, would the Sukhumi tragedy happened and why were those forces not revealed in good time?

[Shevardnadze] These forces are so numerous that our forces would not have been enough for revealing them, especially [word indistinct]. I am not saying... [changes thought] Every political figure and citizen has the right to form a policy orientated on Russia in the same way as orientated on the West or the East but when it assumes a warped nature and when it has the nature of a deal and trade, in the bad sense of the word, then it must be condemned and Georgia will condemn it.

[Reporter] Mr. Shevardnadze, what do you think is important to be done for Georgia to come out of this critical situation?

[Shevardnadze] Georgians must unite. Maybe at the end of the twentieth century we shall recover from our plague and the disease which has been our destruction for centuries. Thank you.

Further on News Conference

LD2809173193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 28 [September]—According to an Iberia correspondent, today, Eduard Shevardnadze gave a news conference. In the introductory speech the head of state said:

"The loss of Sukhumi was a big political and moral and irreparable loss for Georgia. Therefore, we must recapture Sukhumi by all means. For the first time in my assessment, I used [the words] the occupied territory which I am confirming today. More than half of the territory of Abkhazia has been occupied by another state. Recalling the statement by Russian Defense Minister Grachev about his strategic interests in Abkhazia and Ajara, my impression is that the plan of capturing Sukhumi had been worked out in the headquarters of the Russian Army. This was confirmed by Kolesnikov who even gave the date of capturing Sukhumi.

"It is impossible to describe what was happening in Sukhumi. Nobody has done such things since the German Fascists. The interventionists and the separatists have destroyed Sukhumi. They shot dead thousands of people immediately after they had entered the town. They also shot the police staff of the council of ministers. Now, it is our aim to free Sukhumi, recapture the occupied territory, and restore the territorial integrity of Georgia. If this generation fails to do it, the following generation will definitely resolve it. During the battles in Sukhumi, internal disorders occurred in Georgia but irrespective of the certain politicians' ambitions, Georgia will manage to unite. Nobody must forget this, especially those forces which are facilitating the separatist movements in other countries. In particular, the danger of separatism will not be a characteristic phenomenon for Georgia only, let everybody remember this well.

"Yesterday, I walked through the town. I went to the positions. The council of ministers where Zhiuli Shartava stayed was guarded by 60 men. We had talked about a possible evacuation. Then, at 1500 [1300 GMT], I spoke with Shartava from the military headquarters for the last time. He was asking for additional forces to be sent in, but sending only 15 people became possible. I immediately got in touch with Pastukhov in Moscow. Pastukhov spoke with Ardzinba on my order and he [Ardzinba] promised Pastukhov that he would create a corridor and let the staff of the Council of Ministers through. Ardzinba did not keep his word. Then I asked Pastukhov to send at least five officers from the Russian battalion in Sukhumi to help them. But Pastukhov did not do it. If the death of Zhiuli Shartava is confirmed, then it will be on the conscience of Pastukhov and those at one with him. We have nothing to do in Geneva now. There will never be order on our planet as long as the international organizations take such passive stance in resolving conflicts."

When answering the question whether the head of state will resign, Shevardnadze answered: "If people agree, I shall give my place up to the former president. In my opinion, elections must decide everything which is being hotly debated now".

When answering the question whether he had a hope of the West, Shevardnadze answered: "The West has calmed down since the end of the cold war, the disintegration of the evil empire and the freeing of Europe. The West saved billions of dollars. It would be good if the West used a certain sum of the saved sum on the republics in need".

When answering the question if an attack will be launched on Sukhumi, the head of state answered positively.

Tbilisi Blames Units' Inaction for Sukhumi's Fall

LD2809180293 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1656 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Today the Georgian Defense Ministry issued a statement in which it says that one of the main reasons for the fall of Sukhumi was the nonexecution of combat assignments by armed formations that had broken through to the city from Ochamchira Rayon. However, it should be stressed that despite the cowardice, treachery, and irresponsibility that took place,

many fighters showed themselves to be real heroes and genuine patriots of their homeland, the statement says.

Abkhaz Troops, Officials Move Into Sukhumi

LD2909110393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0957 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shcheglova]

[Text] Sochi, 29 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Subunits of the Republic of Abkhazia's armed forces are continuing to attack along the entire frontline and are advancing to the east. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet press service. Combat operations are continuing in Ochamchire rayon, where the Georgian side has concentrated considerable forces.

Representatives of various services and departments of the Republic of Abkhazia are moving into Sukhumi, first and foremost those on whom depend the normal everyday activity of the city and the security of its residents. However, conditions are extremely difficult for work to resume: According to reports from Gudauta, the Council of Ministers' and the Supreme Soviet buildings are completely burned out, many residential and administrative buildings have been burned and destroyed, the television center has been blown up, and there are no telephone communications.

Staff of the press service of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia are likely to move to Sukhumi tomorrow.

Abkhaz Forces Continue Advance Toward Ochamchira

LD2809205793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Abkhazian armed formations crossed the Kelasuri river in the afternoon of September 28 and entered the region of Gulripshi. According to military sources in Gudauta, in the evening the Abkhazian formations were moving towards the Ochamchira region facing no resistance. They are approximately 5 km to the Kodori river which is the region's frontier.

Abkhazian Agriculture and Food Minister Gleb Shamba said in an interview that bread, sugar, cereal and drinking water had been delivered to Sukhumi on Tuesday. In his words, the aid to civilians would have been facilitated if there had been no economic sanctions imposed by Russia.

The Georgian Defense Ministry's press center informed that fierce hostilities near the villages of Adzuzhba and Akhaldaba and the Kodori river in western Sukhumi had been continuing on Tuesday.

According to new information from non-official sources, new sub- units from Zugdidi headed by former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have arrived in Ochamchira. It was reported that Gamsakhurdia had visited front positions of the Georgian troops near the village of Kindgi the same day.

Tbilisi Troops Remain in Sukhumi Suburbs; Zviadists Meet

LD2909133593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The extremely complex internal political situation in Georgia and everything connected directly or indirectly with the recent events in Abkhazia continue to absorb the attention of the public and the media. [IRPINDA correspondent] Nikolay Mamulashvili reports:

[Mamulashvili] Information coming from the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone is rather contradictory. However, according to a report by the republican Ministry of Defense press center, as of this morning Georgian Government troops, still deployed in Gulripshkiy rayon, are in control of that zone, the territory of Sukhumi Airport, and the Sukhumi suburb of Kelasuri. The same sources report that last night passed relatively calmly. Only some insignificant shooting took place. Many military experts attribute this to the fact that the Abkhazian formations, which threw all their reserves into the storming of Sukhumi, have been bled dry and, at any rate for the time being, are not in a state to carry out any kind of combat operations.

The situation in west Georgia is also rather tense. Let me remind you that former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia arrived there on 24 September. Official Georgian sources report that the former president is still in Zugdidi city, which is the particular center of the Zviadist movement, and is holding meetings of many thousands of his supporters.

The mayor of Kutaisi, Teymuraz Shashiashvili, told me today that he had been telephoned by one of the commanders of the armed Zviadists, Akakiy Elieva, who reported that supporters of the former president have at their disposal sufficient forces to be able to return to Sukhumi and then move on to Kutaisi. Teymuraz Shashiashvili emphasized that it is precisely the fault of the armed Zviadists in not coming to the rescue of the defenders of Sukhumi that the city surrendered. Regarding the possible movement of supporters of the former president toward Kutaisi, the mayor said that Kutaisi has been fortified and that everything is ready for any development of events.

Gamsakhurdia-Led Troops Reportedly Move Toward Sukhumi

LD2809172293 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1620 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 28 Sep—An Iberia correspondent has learned in Zugdidi that Georgian Armed Forces have broken through Abkhaz lines near the Kodori river and

approached Sukhumi. Zviad Gamsakhurdia is personally in charge of the military operation.

Earlier today, Zviad Gamsakhurdia was in Gali and Ochamchira. He later went to front line positions in Gulripshi Rayon and the villages of Adzubzha, Kindghi, and Akhaldaba.

A rally attended by thousands of people has been held in Gali. The rally was addressed by Zviad Gamsakhurdia. He made a pledge to the participants of the rally that Georgian Armed Forces under his command would do everything to liberate Sukhumi.

Gamsakhurdia Announces Government Assignments

LD2809224893 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2140 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 28 Sep—After the taking of Sukhumi by Abkhaz formations, Zviad Gamsakhurdia has declared the new appointments to his government. Gamsakhurdia appointed Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ajaria, as prime minister of the as yet nonexistent government, and Tengiz Kitovani, former defense minister of the Georgian government, as the minister of defense.

A delegation from the Ukrainian National Assembly, headed by Anatoliy Lupynos [name as received], chairman of its political advisory section, is in Tbilisi. In an interview with a UNIAR correspondent, Lupynos noted that: "At present the situation in Georgia and surrounds has changed substantially in connection with the activation of the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia. A real threat of civil war has arisen. Should it turn out that the prospect of civil war is real, the Ukrainian National Assembly will adopt a decision on suspending its participation in the war in Georgia."

In the opinion of the Ukrainian National Assembly leader, Ukraine should help Georgia—in particular in setting up hospitals, and rendering food and other humanitarian aid.

The Ukrainian National Assembly promises to give Ukrainian television companies video material that demonstrates the participation in the conflict of Russian Army sub-units.

1 Russian Killed, 2 Seriously Injured Near Sukhumi

LD2909131393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Three Russian paratroopers belonging to the 901st airborne assault battalion deployed near Sukhumi were seriously injured on Monday night as a result of an attack on a guard post at the Russian Defense Ministry's sanatorium. INTERFAX has learned from informed sources that one of the servicemen has since died. The condition of the others remains grave.

Russian Media Condemned for 'Distortion' of Facts

LD2809223093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1656 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Excerpt] [no dateline as received]—[passage omitted] The entire population of Georgia is specially incensed by the hypocritical attitude and distortion of the facts by Russian mass media. In the opinion of many inhabitants of the republic, the events taking place in Abkhazia are the result of aggression by imperial Russia against Georgia.

Black Sea Fleet Evacuates Last Refugees From Sukhumi

LD2909095693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0922 GMT 29 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—The third humanitarian rescue operation of Black Sea navy ships to evacuate refugees and wounded people from Sukhumi took place today morning, ITAR-TASS has learned from the headquarters of the Black Sea navy. It had to be carried out in difficult nighttime conditions. More than 2,900 people were shipped to Poti, Georgia. Unidentified motorboats opened fire on four occasions on a small landing craft of the Black Sea navy. There were no casualties among its crew.

Ships of the Black Sea navy evacuated to safety in Sochi and Poti about 14,000 women, old folk and children over the past three days.

Commander of the Black Sea Navy Admiral Eduard Baltin believes that this land operation would be the last one, because practically all the refugees have already been evacuated from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, and because the Abkhazian side had guaranteed the safety of all the people remaining in Sukhumi.

Mitterrand Sends Supportive Message to Shevardnadze

LD2809174293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris September 8 TASS— French President Francois Mitterrand sent a message to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on Monday, expressing support for his efforts and policy and inviting him to visit paris, according to French Government spokesman Jean Mustelli.

"France is solidly with you in your purposeful effort to preserve Georgia's territorial integrity," the message stated.

Mitterrand went on to say that he fully supports Shevardnadze in his quest for a comprehensive, peaceful settlement within the framework of a conference held under the auspices of the United Nations.

"The French people are upset and have a feeling of solidarity at this moment, when Georgia is going through such a trying ordeal," the French president said.

Estonia

Political Aspects of 'Acts of Terrorism' Questioned

WS2809155193 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1256 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 28—The Estonian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday [28 September] that on Monday and the following night when the three Baltic presidents met Bill Clinton two acts of terrorism were targeted at diplomatic representations in Latvia and Estonia, the two countries where Russia still has military presence.

Yesterday afternoon, the Estonian embassy car in Riga was stolen at gunpoint and its Latvian driver seriously beaten. Early Tuesday morning, a bomb that had been planted on the roof of a garage in the courtyard of a house were U.S. and Great Britain have their embassies. None was hurt, the police said, but the blast knocked out American embassy's satellite communication and shattered the windows of neighbouring houses.

"Investigation must show whether these acts of terrorism are connected and have political background and whether their concurrence with the Baltic-U.S. summit was a coincidence or not," a high Foreign Ministry official who asked not to be named told ETA.

The three Baltic presidents, Lennart Meri from Estonia, Guntis Ulmanis from Latvia and Algirdas Brazauskas from Lithuania, met Clinton and State Secretary Warren Christopher in New York on Monday.

Meri stressed the urgency of Russian troop pullout from Latvia and Estonia and informed Clinton of the human rights situation in Estonia and the country's first successful steps towards market economy, the Estonian president's press office informed ETA.

Meri also extended Clinton an invitation to Estonia while Clinton said he would give it a serious thought. Clinton also promised to further support the Baltic countries, both politically and economically and suggested the countries continued constructive dialogues with the leaders of democratic Russia.

Estonia's Defence Minister Juri Luik and Ambassador Toomas-Hendrik Ilves also attended the meeting.

Defense Official Advocates Paramilitary Organization

WS2809154693 Tallinn BNS in English 1404 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] TALLINN, Sept 27, BNS—Hannes Walter, Chancellor of the Estonian Defense Ministry, thinks that the voluntary paramilitary organization Kaitseliit is a necessity. In an interview published by the HOMMIKULEHT newspaper he took up the stand of an advocate of this organization, notorious for its hooliganism and unwarranted use of force.

An increasing number of Estonians, notably political figures and members of parliament, have been demanding the dissolution of Kaitseliit which is subordinated to the defense headquarters. Its critics say that the protection of citizens is the job of the police and armed forces rather than ill-disciplined volunteers carrying firearms.

Walter admitted that on some occasions, units as well as members of Kaitseliit misbehaved but thought this could be attributed to growing pains. He recalled that the organization had posed problems of this kind back in 1920's when it had been originally set up.

He thinks, however, that the organization was "a major element of the country's defenses." Its members must be disciplined people of unblemished morals. He said that membership cards would soon be exchanged in Kaitseliit and in the course of that campaign the organization would get rid of those who had misbehaved.

Riigikogu Questions Commander Einseln on Defense

WS2809153993 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0927 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From 28 September RAHVA HAAL, HOMMIKULEHT, PAEVALEHT, p 1, 3]

[Excerpt] Tuesday, September 28—Yesterday's session opened with the ministers' answers to the members' questions. Commander-in-Chief Aleksander Einseln was asked by 10 members, whether the Defence Forces are adequately armed and whether the arms deal with Israel was really necessary.

The personnel is presently armed with small arms only—Romanian- and Chinese-made assault rifles and carbines, but there is a lack of machine guns and sharpshooters' rifles, Einseln said. There are no antiaircraft and antitank weapons, artillery or mortars. Einseln added that only Israel agreed to sell arms at the signing of the agreement, China and South Africa announced of their willingness later. The Defence League is armed with Finnish magazine rifles and Romanian assault rifles, the general added.

Einseln pointed out that he had appealed to the president two months ago to form a commission for formulating the concept of defence. The commission has not yet materialised and the Commander- in-Chief has little faith in the parliamentary defence commission, whose members cannot cooperate, according to chairman Rein Helme. The concept should be approved at a popular vote, so as to guarantee popular support to the army, he said.

Einseln stressed that the worst problem in the Defence Forces and the Defence League is drinking. He also

mentioned the young non-citizens, recommending that the Riigikogu found a way of service, which would enable to control them and to teach them Estonian. The GHQ [general headquarters] has no information about armed groups of foreign citizens active in Estonia, the general said. [passage omitted]

Riigikogu Votes on Israeli Arms Deal Bill

WS2809130693 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 2012 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 27—Estonian parliament, the Riigikogu, voted a bill on Estonian-Israeli arms deal proposed earlier by a MP out of its agenda.

Toomas Alatalu, a member of the oppositionist Coalition Party, had presented the country's parliament a bill on declaring null and void the $49 million Estonian-Israeli arms deal.

Estonia's government had concluded the deal with TAAS Israel Industries Ldt. and agreed to pay $49 million in eight years following arms deliveries.

Premier Mart Laar first disclosed the figure in September 13 saying the arms were to be used to re-arm the country's Defence Forces' infantry batallions. Laar refused to disclose the quantity of arms bought as the information was classified.

Last week, 12 prominent Estonian politicians, including ex- Premiers Tiit Vahi and Edgar Savisaar, issued a statement accusing the government in irresponsible transaction.

They accused Laar in denying that the government had received credits and issued bills of exchange in order to pay for the weapons. Legally, bills can be guaranteed only through the Riigikogu and the national budget, their statement read while adding that foreign banks had been given uncovered promises.

The politicians also stressed the $5 million loan taken by the government from the North Estonian Bank to cover the downpayment should have been approved by the Riigikogu like any other loan.

The government was also accused in selling the bills in Austria below their face value.

Defense Ministry Denies Arms Deal With Czechs

WS2909103493 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1819 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 28—The Estonian Defence Ministry on Tuesday [28 September] denied any involvement in possible arms deal with the Czech Republic.

Andres Jaegma, head of the ministry's department, said he could not comment upon Reuters news story from September 27 saying the possibility of Czech arms supplies to the Baltic armies had been raised in talks last week between Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zielenec and Baltic defence officials. Among other high officials, Zielenec had also met Aleksander Einseln, the commander-in-chief of Estonia's Defence Forces.

"If such talks were held, I can assure you, not at the initative or participation of the Estonian Defence Ministry," Jaigma said.

Estonia's acting premier, Liia Hanni, the Minister of Reform, told a government briefing on Tuesday she had no information on government's intention to buy weapons from the Czechs.

Einseln was not available for comments.

Prime Minister Mart Laar is on an official visit to South Korea and Thailand.

Ain Saarna, the government's spokesman, said it was known that Latvia and Lithuania wanted to buy arms from the Czech Republic.

Zielenec visited Estonia on September 24-25.

Recently, Estonia concluded a controversial $49 million arms deal with Israel. The opposition sharply criticised the government accusing them of illegal transaction and corruption.

Minister Suggests Postponement of Paldiski Elections

WS2809154893 Tallinn BNS in English 1404 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] TALLINN, Sept 27, BNS—The local elections in Paldiski ought to be postponed, says Estonian Interior Minister Lagle Parek.

In an interview with the Estonian Television today Parek said that, in her opinion, a special government representative should be sent to Paldiski and elections arranged only after the town's residents have been registered.

The Estonian authorities still haven't received the documents of Paldiski's dissolved Russian police station and the town's resident registers, so they don't have sufficient information about the number of the town's permanent residents and who they are.

The Estonian delegation attending the Sept. 24-25 meeting of CIS interior ministers in Volgograd demanded that Russia return the Paldiski resident register to Estonian authorities.

"The Russians promised to do it as soon as possible," Parek said in her interview. "What exactly 'as soon as possible' means in this case, we don't know."

"I think that, even if we get those documents before the elections, a reregistration of Paldiski's residents should be arranged," she said.

Russia To Trnasfer Hydrography Equipment by 1 Oct

LD2809190393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Starting 1 October, the Lighthouses and Hydrography [water safety] Service of the Estonian Waterways Department will be responsible for safe sea traffic within Estonian territorial waters. By then, the Tallinn branch of the Russian Federation's Naval Hydrography Service will hand over to Estonia seven hydrography ships in addition to lighthouses and hydrography real estate. Estonia has 48 functioning lighthouses, with 25 of them manned.

Defense Ministry Obtains To Scrap Metal Rights

WS2909103393 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1935 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 28—Estonian Government decided on its Tuesday [28 September] session to give the Ministry of Defence a right to collect and sell scrap metal and equipment unfit for use from the former Soviet Army bases. The work will be conducted by the state owned "Eesti Metallieksport" ("Estonian Metal Export") which has legal monopoly over the business.

According to the Chancellor of the Ministry of Defence Hannes Walter, the territories of the former Russian Army bases are littered with scrap metal which is at present carried away without the state getting any profit of it. Walter said the Ministry had made a proposal to the government to end anarchy and channel the profits from selling scrap metal to the state.

50 per cent of the the money will be received by the state and the other 50 per cent by the Ministry of Defence which enables the Ministry to secure guarding of military objects without extra money from the state budget.

Latvia

Ulmanis on Baltic Leaders' Meeting With Clinton

LD2809152293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Interview with President Guntis Ulmanis by correspondent Anta Busa in New York on 28 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ulmanis] The morning of 27 September passed preparing for the meeting with President Clinton. It should be said that the talks lasted for more than 50 minutes instead of 30 minutes. Therefore, we were even late for a reception by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. In my opinion, however, it was worth it.

President Clinton listened very carefully to the presidents of all three Baltic states and expressed his attitude—his unambiguous attitude—that the Russian troops should be withdrawn. He stressed that he would continue to express it during talks with Russia. In his turn, he also called for tackling, in a civilized manner, the issue concerning residents of the Baltic states, their citizenship, and their future. I think that we all understood this, and we will act in the future in order to tackle it in a civilized manner.

There was a question regarding money. Here the state president—the U.S. President—suggested that a fund of the Baltic states and the United States of America could also continue to be set up in the future, money from which could be directed toward the migration of the people who no longer wish to live in the Baltic states and who wish to live in Russia.

President Clinton was also interested in the fate of our peoples and in the demographic situation of Latvians. He remembered his childhood, when he also lived together with representatives of the Latvian people in Chicago. I think that these memories also stimulated the idea that maybe President Clinton would also come to the Baltic states in the near future.

[Busa] We were able to see several times on international television programs here how you—how all three presidents of the Baltic states—went together with President Clinton into the huge building of the UN General Assembly.

[Ulmanis] In any case, it was, to a certain extent, an exceptional situation for us and for President Clinton when all four of us went out of the U.S. mission. It was, unfortunately—or fortunately—raining heavily, and all four of us got into President Clinton's limousine—in my opinion, of an undefinable make—and left for the UN complex. We drove to the United Nations where we were really greeted, and all four of us went up those zigzag stairs. It was a surprise for many. In the evening, other delegations even asked how it happened that the U.S. President was travelling to the United Nations with the Baltic presidents.

I think that the main achievement is that the names of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia were heard here. The fate and names of these people were heard. It was said that these small states are situated on the Baltic Sea.

[Busa] After that, you also attended a reception held by Bill Clinton for all of the UN General Assembly.

[Ulmanis] Yes, that was in the evening—not long ago. It was held by the U.S. President. In between, however, there was a reception held by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. That was a parade or show of the heads of states, where it was possible to get closer acquainted with some neighboring states and some more distant states. I had interesting meetings with the Croatian president and the Nigerian president, and my path also crossed that of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev. We even exchanged some words, perhaps in not a particularly friendly tone. Such as we are at the

moment, however, this perhaps also created the possibility for talks to be perhaps more successful in the future. [passage omitted]

Talks Resume With Russia on Withdrawal of Troops

LD2809185793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Talks between Latvia and Russia on the withdrawal of the Russian Army resumed at Melluzi today. At the morning plenary session, the delegations began to consider a draft of the principal agreement on the deadline and timetable for the Army's withdrawal. The delegations have returned to this issue after an eight month break.

Issues related to social problems of the Russian military personnel were considered at the start of the talks. The issue concerning the deadline for the Army's withdrawal has not yet been considered.

Today the delegations are continuing the talks at a plenary session, but tomorrow it is planned to work in groups of experts, as well as to initial the completed agreements.

Russian Events Said Not To Affect Talks

WS2909094693 Riga LETA in English 0736 GMT 29 Sep 93

[From the "Latvian Press Review"]

[Text] Riga, September 28 (LETA)—Today the regular round of Latvian-Russian talks starts in Jurmala. "The events occurring in Russia will not influence the talks", the "Diena" reports quoting leader of the Russian delegation Sergei Zotov [name as received]. He also said that delegation working would observe the regulations having been in the previous rounds. As the newspaper said the Russian delegation chief informed that this time the most attention would be focused on providing social guarantees for the retired militants. Sergei Zotov believes the settling of the problem will stimulate signing the troops withdrawal treaty. Besides he once more pointed out Russia's readiness to pull out its forces by the end of 1994. And afterwards on the basis of the agreement Russia would like to preserve some strategic objectives in Latvia: Liepaja port, radiolocator in Skrunda and the space reconnaissance station in Ventspils.

The "Diena" daily also quotes a member of the Latvian delegation on the talks, commander of the Latvian defence forces Dainis Turlais as saying that it had been suggested to the Russian party on the negotiations to discuss the possibility to strike an accord on withdrawal of the Russian troops and to state the final term of the pull-out. Dainis Turlais pointed out that nothing had changed the stance of Latvia on the matter, namely, Latvia kept insisting on the demand the withdrawal of the Russian troops be completed by the end of 1993. Another member of the Latvian team on the negotiations, Ivars Silars expressed the view that it could be hardly expected that any constructive decision would be made during this round of talks because of the current situation in Russia. However, the members of the Latvian team welcomed the decision taken be the Moscow authorities not to put off the talks till the political crisis in Russia would be diffused.

'Latvia's Way' Becomes New Political Party

WS2809130493 Riga LETA in English 1555 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Riga, September 27 (LETA)—Saturday [25 September] in Riga the constituent assembly was held of the new political party specified as the "Latvia's Way" union. 154 people were willing to establish the party "Latvia's Way". Nearly half of them are the parliament's deputies representing the "Latvia's Way" faction and the cabinet members. Besides there are quite a few young politicians presently at low posts in the state apparatus and local municipalities but working actively in the youth club of the "Latvia's Way" union. Party member, Minister of Justice Egils Levits noted "Latvia's Way" to be the scantiest one among the European ruling parties. Moreover its organization had already been accomplished after coming to power.

The general assembly participants determined the party's statute. It said that any citizen or permanent resident of the Latvian Republic irrespective of nationality, sex and religion having reached the age of 18, recognizing and observing the party's program may enter the "Latvia's Way" union as its member. Although to enter the party first of all it is necessary to obtain the references given by its three members and undergo the 6-months period of probation. Speaking generally of the statute it should be pointed out that it resembles the statutes of current and former parties. Though the "Latvia's Way" statute obliges the members to give support to the partners in the party. In case any of the party members disregards decisions of the ruling organs' or its officials he or she will be expelled from the party.

The "Latvia's Way" passed the declaration which states, "we are liberals for we support parliamental democracy, individual freedom and personal ability to be responsible of the actions performed. But at the same time we are conservatives as we support the economy based on the free market principles and private property as its basis.

Latvia's Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs was elected the chairman of the party.

To Broaden Range of Action

WS2809154493 Tallinn BNS in English 1404 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] RIGA, Sept 27, BNS—The political Latvia's Way coalition transformed into a political party Saturday [25 September] in Riga in a bid to enlarge the spectrum of its

activities and to create a launching pad for the materialization of its election program.

The Latvia's Way bases its future actions on the already existant documents, like the election program and the economic reforms program Latvia 2000, says the constituent declaration.

The Latvia's Way speaks for an open society and an individual freedom of each person as far as it does not harm other members of the society.

The economic freedom is guaranteed by a private ownership and a tidied-up legislation. The Latvia's Way plans to create a platform for a well-reasoned and speedy economic development, and promote the formation of a large and strong middle-class, as a guarantee of the social stability.

The international security of the Latvian state would be achieved by Latvia becoming a part of all-European economic, legal, political and military structures, says the Latvia's Way.

The new party stands for a socially responsible free market economy, with its social members realizing and practising a mutual moral and material solidarity.

The Latvia's Way program favors the traditionally European political convictions of liberalism and conservatism.

The Latvia's Way is ready for a constructive cooperation with all democratic and reforms-oriented forces in Latvia.

Also, it pledges to cooperate with all social circles, ethnical groups, religious confessions, trade and public organizations, according to the declaration.

Officials Meet With EC Group on Free Trade Accord

WS2909111993 Tallinn BNS in English 1703 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] RIGA, Sept 28, BNS—The Latvian Foreign Ministry officials met with a European Community delegation in Riga Monday [27 September] to discuss a prospective free trade agreement between Latvia and the European Community.

The specialists considered the form and the content of the free trade pact, numbered the types of production to be included in the agreement, outlined anti-dumping, anti-trust and subsidies legislation, and the cooperation in customs work.

Agriculture Minister Janis Kinna acquainted the E.C. delegation with the Latvian agricultural position. The Latvian-E.C. working party on the development of agriculture will convene in November, the officials agreed.

The talks were conducted by Latvian Minister for Foreign Trade and Cooperation with the European Community Olgerts Pavlovskis.

Lithuania

New Faction Within Democratic Labor Party LDLP

WS2809154193 Tallinn BNS in English 1853 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Sept 27, BNS—Around 20 members of the parliamentary faction of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] will circulate an official statement on the creation of a new group within the faction.

Members of the LDLP faction said the statement is likely to appear Monday [27 September] evening.

MP's Vytautas Petkevicius and Arvydas Ivaskevicius, who are considered the group's initiators, claim this is not a split in the faction. "I already mentioned, and will repeat once again, that we will be the last ones to leave the faction," Petkevicius said.

He added that not a single word of truth was said by opposition MP Andrius Kubilius during a radio interview and a press conference Monday. Kubilius spoke about a breakup in the ruling faction and a "Lithuanian" version of the Yeltsin-Khasbulatov conflict.

Petkevicius said the new group will seek active and direct participation in the parliament's work. The lawmaker said he is discontented because the LDLP does not keep its pre-election promises. Ivaskevicius mentioned a possible difference of views between the group and the whole faction.

The crisis inside the faction was discussed by the LDLP board Monday. Board members questioned the validity of aims and reasons which prompted to form the group. The board supposes that personal ambitions and radicalism may be the actual reasons. Justinas Karosas, chairman of the LDLP faction, said it would be necessary to make the group "play a positive role."

The board decided to discuss the situation at the faction's meeting and to express its attitude towards statements by MP Kubilius.

Similarities to Russia Noted

WS2809154393 Tallinn BNS in English 1404 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Sept 27, BNS—Disagreements in the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] and its parliamentary faction resemble the situation in Russia, says Andrius Kubilius, chairman of the parliament's rightist opposition coalition.

Kubilius made a supposition that President Algirdas Brazauskas might become "a Lithuanian Yeltsin." Lithuania already has its own Khasbulatov, he told reporters Monday [27 September].

As previously reported, 20 out 70 LDLP faction members announced their decision to create an "internal constructive opposition." The split was initiated by MP's Vytautas Petkevicius and Arvydas Ivaskevicius who openly oppose the ruling party's leadership.

Kubilius says the breakup and confrontation in the LDLP is an attempt by some of its members to shift the responsibility for failures in state government to others. The opposition MP says Petkevicius and Ivaskevicius are trying to find scapegoats and to come out "clean" themselves.

Kubilius said possible ways of acting in this situation remains an open question for the rightist opposition: Whether to defend the president or to observe "how Moscow rejoices at disagreements in the ruling party."

Kubilius also made a supposition that everything is done "to defend the 'poor' president from 'bad' communists and Lithuanian Khasbulatovs, and to forget that his personal past is very similar."

In the end Kubilius put forward yet another question: Which groups direct the course of events, and are they in Lithuania or "not far to the east of Lithuania."

Parliament's National Security Committee Head Resigns

WS2809154293 Tallinn BNS in English 1404 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Sept 27, BNS—Gediminas Kirkilas, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament's National Security Committee, announced his resignation at the committee's meeting Monday [27 September].

Kirkilas, who is one of the leaders of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP], said he feels partly responsible for the conflict in the Voluntary State Defense Service [VSDS].

Vytautas Petkevicius, committee vice chairman, was appointed as the temporary chairman. Petkevicius, also a member of the LDLP, is one of the initiators of a new leftist faction in the parliament.

Kirkilas first mentioned his intentions to resign last week.

The incident over the secession of a group of volunteers from their base in Kaunas last week has resulted in the resignation of Audrius Butkevicius, defense minister, and Jonas Gecas, vice minister of defense and chief of the VSDS headquarters. Butkevicius has been commissioned by the president to continue work until his resignation is considered.

Danish General Doubts Military Cooperation, NATO

WS2909111393 Tallinn BNS in English 1911 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Sept 28, BNS—Lithuania will need around 5-10 years to create its army, says General Joergen Lyng, commander of the Home Guard of Denmark.

The general and a group of high-ranking Danish officers came to Lithuania to get acquainted with its defense system.

In an interview with the LIETUVOS AIDAS daily, Lyng expressed certitude that Lithuania, which relates its own security to European security systems, is not ready to join NATO. He was also quite reserved in his estimations about the possibilities of military cooperation between Lithuania and Denmark due to "the very different" level of their development.

The general was surprised by the stormy reaction to the incident in the Lithuanian Voluntary State Defense Service [VSDS], which he called "a normal consequence" of a transitional period.

During their three-day visit in Lithuania the Danish military officials met with the Lithuanian minister of defense, members of the parliamentary National Security Committee, commanders and soldiers of the Lithuanian infantry brigade and the VSDS. The general also visited Lithuania's army headquarters.

On Tuesday [28 September] the Danish delegation went to the Lithuanian Air Force headquarters in Kaunas were they got acquainted with the country's system of air-space control.

Brazauskas Meets With PRC Foreign Minister Qian

LD2809232193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Justas Paleckis, the president's foreign policy adviser, has reported to ELTA from Washington that Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas met Qian Qichen, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of China.

It was stressed at the meeting that the relations between Lithuania and China, especially in the economic sphere, have been developing in a mutually favorable direction. The withdrawal of the Russian troops from Lithuania was seen by Qian Qichen as a victory won by the Lithuanian diplomacy and international justice.

A visit to China by President Brazauskas which is due at the end of this year was also discussed.